pp. 37-38, 39-40

0856-B-03

PREX 7.10: FBIS-EAS-92-072

FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

#99-015330 Aw

FBIS-EAS-92-072
Tuesday
14 April 1992

COMPLETED

L: 25-27; 29

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-072 CONTENTS *14 April 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- OECD Chief Hopeful of Early GATT Success *[KYODO]* 1
- Foreign Minister on Resumption of GATT Talks *[KYODO]* 1
- Tokyo 'Would Welcome' Yeltsin Presence at G-7 *[KYODO]* 1
- Former Soviet President Gorbachev Continues Visit 2
    - Speaks at Press Club Symposium *[KYODO]* 2
    - Urges Help for Russia's Reforms *[KYODO]* 3
    - Meets With University Students *[KYODO]* 3
- Antimonopoly Chief Views U.S. Antitrust Policy *[KYODO]* 4
- Komeito 'Ready To Consult' on Peacekeeping Force *[KYODO]* 4
- Nongovernmental Group To Give Goods to Cambodia *[KYODO]* 5
- Environment, Copyrights on Watanabe China Agenda *[KYODO]* 5
- Tokyo Plans To Continue Financial Aid to Peru *[KYODO]* 5
- Brazilian Minister Requests Earth Summit Aid *[KYODO]* 6
- Prime Minister Miyazawa Holds News Conference *[Tokyo TV]* 7
- LDP Candidate Wins By-Election in Ibaraki *[KYODO]* 13
- Hata Opposes Intervention in Stock Market *[KYODO]* 13
- Trade Minister Says Economy 'Bottomed Out' *[KYODO]* 13

North Korea

- Official Says 3 Reactors To Be Inspected *[KYODO]* 13
    - Commentary Lauds Antinuclear Efforts *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
- PRC President Yang Shangkun Arrives for Visit *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
    - Greeted by Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* 15
    - Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet *[KCNA]* 16
    - Leaders Hold 'Comradely' Talks *[KCNA]* 16
    - Paper Hails Visit *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
- Kim Il-song: Japan Talks 'Progressing Smoothly' *[KYODO]* 17
- Gathering Celebrates 'Generalissimo' Kim Il-song *[Pyongyang Radio]* 18
- Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet for Prince Sihanouk *[KCNA]* 18
    - Leaders Exchange Gifts *[KCNA]* 19
- Envoy Iterates Efforts To Ease Nuclear Issue *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19

South Korea

- Analysts Cited on Kim Il-song's Staying Power *[KYODO]* 19
- Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok Meets PRC Leaders 20
    - Talks With Li Peng, Qian Qichen *[THE KOREA HERALD 14 Apr]* 20
    - YONHAP Analyzes Relations 21
- PRC Central Bank Expected To Open Seoul Office *[YONHAP]* 22
- USFK Korean Employees Uneasy With Job Status *[THE KOREA HERALD 11 Apr]* 22
- U.S. Accused of Involvement in 1949 Assassination *[YONHAP]* 23
    - Students Protest Near U.S. Embassy *[YONHAP]* 24

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Kachin Organization Accuses PRC of Aiding Junta *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 14 Apr]* 25
Kachin 'Insurgents' Commit Arson in Mansi, Momauk *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
'Insurgents' Surrender at Army Camps *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
Army Seizes 9 Kg of Opium From Shan Insurgents *[Rangoon Radio]* 26

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Congratulates Thai Premier Suchinda *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 26
Minister Proposes Tightening Logging Concessions *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 26
Kuala Lumpur Ozone Level Beyond WHO Limits *[AFP]* 26

Singapore

ASEAN Free Trade Area 'Should Be Set Up Quickly' *[Singapore Radio]* 26
Goh Chok Tong Congratulates Thailand's Suchinda *[THE STRAITS TIMES 10 Apr]* 27

Cambodia

Leaders Celebrate Buddhist New Year 27
    Son Sann Greetings *[Radio VOK]* 27
    Heng Samrin Message *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
    Heng Samrin, Chea Sim Celebrate *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 28
Parties To Join Defense of Maritime Territory *[Radio VOK]* 28
PRC Engineers Precede Five More UN Battalions *[AFP]* 29
Further on Akashi's Remarks on Khmer Rouge *[SPK]* 29
SRV, Phnom Penh Hide Troops in Kompong Thom *[Radio VGNUFC]* 30
Bank Governor Discusses Business Activity *[Bangkok THE NATION 8 Apr]* 30

Indonesia

Dutch Embassy Greets World Bank-Led Donor Group *[ANTARA]* 32
    Dutch Satisfied With Proposal *[ANTARA]* 32
Home Minister: Equal Treatment for All Parties *[Jakarta Radio]* 32
Minister Views Oil Prices, 23 Apr OPEC Meet *[ANTARA]* 33

Philippines

Manglapus: U.S. Must Protect Ships in Spratlys *[Manila Radio]* 34
UN Sanctions Supported; Libyan Envoys To Stay *[Manila Radio]* 34
    No Plans To Evacuate From Libya *[Quezon City Radio]* 34
Workers To File War Damage Claim Against Iraq *[MANILA BULLETIN 14 Apr]* 34
Talks Hastened on Japanese Loan Package *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 13 Apr]* 35
Japan Extends Environmental Aid Package *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 14 Apr]* 35
Foreign Banks Agree to $491 Million in New Loans *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 14 Apr]* 36
Peruvian Situation Called Lesson for Country *[THE CHRONICLE 13 Apr]* 37
Rebel Letter Causes Coup Rumors in Mindanao *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 14 Apr]* 37
Religious Group Supports Cojuangco for President *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 13 Apr]* ... 38
Talks Fail on Merger Between Cojuangco, Marcos *[THE CHRONICLE 14 Apr]* 39
'Pro-People' Candidates Supported in Nueva Ecija *[THE CHRONICLE 13 Apr]* 39
Poll Body Identifies More Election Hot Spots *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 14 Apr]* 40
Aquino Rejects NPA Lent Cease-Fire Proposal *[Quezon City Radio]* 41
Energy Board Announces Reduction of Oil Prices *[Quezon City Radio]* 41

Thailand

- Embassy Security Improved After Sanctions Imposed *[BANGKOK POST 12 Apr]* 42
- Spokesman on SRV Paper's Criticism of Suchinda *[BANGKOK POST 14 Apr]* 42
- 'Hotly-Contested' Cabinet Posts Not Yet Filled *[BANGKOK POST 14 Apr]* 43
- Cabinet Post Jockeying May Delay Nominations *[THE NATION 12 Apr]* 43
- Article Calls for Boycott of Government *[THE NATION 11 Apr]* 45
- Pro-Democracy Leaders Call for Sanctions *[THE NATION 12 Apr]* 46
- Early Challenges for Suchinda Government Viewed *[BANGKOK POST 12 Apr]* 47
- Chinese Dailies on Suchinda as Prime Minister *[XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO, etc., 8, 9 Apr]* 48
- Newspapers Comment on Appointment of Suchinda *[NAEO NA, etc., 9, 10 Apr]* 49

Vietnam

- Vo Van Kiet Congratulates New Thai Premier *[VNA]* 50
  - Daily Views Appointment *[Hanoi Radio]* 50
- Australia To Provide $76 Million Development Aid *[AFP]* 51
  - Premier Receives Australian Ministers *[VNA]* 51
- UN Operation in Cambodia Faces Funding Problems *[Hanoi International]* 51
- First Foreign Bank Licensed To Do Business *[VNA]* 52
- Communist Party Delegation Leaves for India *[VNA]* 52
- International Copyright Official Makes Visit *[VNA]* 52
- Assembly To Vote on Draft Constitution Today *[VNA]* 52
- Communist Party Crackdown on Media Viewed *[Bangkok THE NATION 13 Apr]* 52
- Party Directive on Press, Publications *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
- Ba Ria-Vung Tau Holds First Party Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
- Directive Forms New Township in Ha Tinh Province *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
- Conference Held to Review Party Building in 1991 *[SAIGON GIAI PHONG 21 Mar]* 55
- Ho Chi Minh City Export-Import Values Increase *[VNA]* 56

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

- Electoral Setback Not To Cause Policy Changes *[AFP]* 57

New Zealand

- Government Prepared To Implement Libya Sanctions *[AFP]* 57

Papua New Guinea

- Premier Faces Charges of Misusing Public Funds *[AFP]* 58
  - Namaliu Responds to Accusations *[AFP]* 58

Japan

OECD Chief Hopeful of Early GATT Success

OW1304103192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Jean-Claude Paye, on Monday expressed hope that the deadlocked Uruguay Round of global trade talks will be completed in the near future, allowing countries to work on other equally important issues.

In his talks with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Paye, the OECD secretary general, also said it is imperative to find out ways for the anemic world economy to regain momentum without kindling inflationary pressure, a MITI official said.

Paye said that if the global trade talks can produce positive results before the OECD's ministerial meeting in mid-May, the Paris-based organization can tackle new issues such as the relationship between trade and environment.

Watanabe said he hopes that the summit meeting later this month between the United States and the European Community (EC) can generate a breakthrough to the five-year-old talks, which have been stagnated primarily by a transatlantic row over farm trade reform.

Assessing the current state of the global economy, Paye said most of OECD's 24 member countries are paying the price for the rapid growth of the late 1980s, a sharp accumulation of debts, and the lack of countermeasures to structural problems like high jobless rates.

He said this causes investors to lose confidence, and combined with unstable political climates, put a damper on the economy worldwide.

Watanabe agreed with Paye that the global economy is at a standstill, saying that it is important to hammer out an agreement on international cooperation and coordination at the OECD meeting to ensure recovery for the economy.

He also promised Japan's flexible economic engineering to sustain domestic demand-driven economic growth, by which he said Japan can contribute to the international community.

The MITI chief also called on Paye to take up the issue of the new U.S. antitrust policy at the May ministerial talks, a request the OECD head answered positively.

Concerned about a U.S. policy extending antitrust laws to overseas businesses that allegedly hurt U.S. exports, MITI officials said such a rule would undermine the sovereignty of other nations.

Regarding the matter of aiding the former Soviet Union, Paye stressed the need for more balanced assistance which pays attention not only to Russia but also other members of the fledgling Commonwealth of Independent States.

He said that industrial nations should also maintain dialogues with developing nations, which are concerned that they are losing the interest of major countries.

Foreign Minister on Resumption of GATT Talks

OW1404024992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday the government hopes to calmly observe developments regarding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

His comments were in response to remarks by General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel that the Uruguay Round talks would resume after Easter. Next Sunday is Easter Sunday. At a press conference following a cabinet meeting, Watanabe said he believes the resumption of the talks after Easter is a step toward a harmonious resolution of the talks.

He said the government had mixed feelings regarding Dunkel's decision. Although Tokyo had sought a swift end to the talks, some within the government were anxious about them, he said. Easter had been the target date for wrapping up the 108-nation round of trade talks, which began in Uruguay in 1986.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu, speaking at a separate news conference, expressed doubts that a scheduled summit between the United States and the European Community (EC) on April 22 would lead to a breakthrough in the stalled Uruguay Round talks.

U.S. President George Bush and EC Commission President Jacques Delors are scheduled to meet for the summit to iron out differences at the Uruguay Round. While Bush and Delors may agree on the need to make the summit a success, it is doubtful if they will be able to work out differences on individual trade issues, Tanabu said.

The farm minister echoed Watanabe's remarks when he said the government will watch developments regarding the Uruguay Round.

Tokyo 'Would Welcome' Yeltsin Presence at G-7

OW1404094092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan would welcome Russian President Boris Yeltsin's presence at the annual economic summit of seven industrialized democracies on July 6-8 in Munich, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara said that Yeltsin's attendance would facilitate discussions on economic reconstruction of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which he said is important for the healthy development of the world economy.

It would also provide Japan with an opportunity to draw attention to its territorial dispute with Russia over four islands off Hokkaido, Ishihara said.

Summit hosts have not yet solicited Japan's views on Yeltsin's participation, he said.

Last year, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev joined the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the United States for talks in London after their main business was concluded.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazwa said at a luncheon meeting earlier in the day that he would urge other Group of Seven (G-7) leaders attending the summit to understand the importance Japan attaches to resolving the territorial dispute.

Japan is demanding the return of the islands, which were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II, before it will offer massive aid and enter a peace treaty with Russia.

An announcement by Germany and the United States of a 24 billion dollar G-7 aid program to the CIS took Japan by surprise earlier this month. Japanese officials have said, however, no consensus has yet been reached on a final figure.

Miyazawa, in a speech to ruling party legislators, also said he would seek support from Germany and France on the territorial issue when he visits the two countries later this month.

Former Soviet President Gorbachev Continues Visit

Speaks at Press Club Symposium

OW1404105892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday advised his successor Russian President Boris Yeltsin to adopt a conciliatory stance toward the Ukraine in order to keep the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) together.

"I think it is necessary to recommend to the president of Russia to take the first step to meet Ukraine halfway," Gorbachev said in a symposium at the Japan National Press Club.

Gorbachev, who now heads his own think-tank in Moscow, arrived in Japan on Saturday for a 12-day visit, which has already included talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and an audience with Emperor Akihito.

The former Kremlin chief expressed concern over the mounting rivalry between the two former components of the Soviet Union, saying that how their relations develop is of "great importance" for the fate of the commonwealth, which he called "a fragile thing."

"What they need to do is take reciprocal steps and not to make politics hostage to impulsive actions by either side," the former Soviet leader told the gathering.

Russia and the Ukraine have been feuding over control of the 380-warship Black Sea Fleet and the issue of the Ukraine's handover of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia for destruction.

In an interview with the mass-circulation YOMIURI SHIMBUN on Monday, Gorbachev said he hopes the confrontation will not prompt a reconsideration of aid to the CIS by the Group-of-Seven industrialized nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the symposium, which was attended by former Japanese prime ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone and Toshiki Kaifu, Gorbachev expressed strong support for the preservation of the CIS, repeatedly referring to it as "our country."

"It is quite clear to me that the early establishment of a real commonwealth is something that all states within the commonwealth vitally need," he said, warning, "without this, there will be a total collapse which would have very tragic consequences for all of us."

Gorbachev called on the international community to help consolidate the CIS, using "all financial, economic, and political means available."

Apparently cautioning the West not to drive a wedge between the republics, he said, "no attempt should be made to secure unilateral advantages because of the difficulties we currently see in the commonwealth."

Gorbachev said Russia's commitment to a "commonwealth" in the true sense of the word will be of "decisive importance."

He criticized the "rather slow development" of the process of creating new CIS institutions, saying, "those institutions that have been established are not working effectively enough."

Gorbachev denied the former Soviet Union represented an unnaturally consolidated Russian empire, saying the collection of the vast territory's multitude of ethnic groups into a single state was the result of "historical evolution."

"They intended to live in one country," he said.

Gorbachev noted that 75 million people in the CIS live outside their national republics in other republics of the commonwealth, while 30 million have ethnically mixed marriages.

The former leader told the gathering that the CIS republics must face up to the reality that "for better or for worse" they are intrinsically interlinked, having in [as received] integrated systems of production, energy, railways, pipelines.

Commenting on the breakup of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev said the outcome might have been different had hardline communists not launched the failed coup against him last August.

"We were close to the signing of a new treaty on the union of sovereign states but that chance was negated by the August coup," he said.

"The victim of that August coup was the union state, the single state in our country that we were not able to preserve," he lamented.

Urges Help for Russia's Reforms

OW1404065092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0558 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Tuesday for Japanese assistance for Russia's economic reforms and support for its integration into the world economy, calling it a "historic task" for Japan.

Gorbachev, speaking at a symposium at the Japan National Press Club, also urged enhanced bilateral economic cooperation and proposed the creation of a Russia-Japan business association to promote Japanese investment in Russia.

"The crisis of Russia can be overcome and it will be overcome once the economy begins to develop ... on the basis of new forms of property and methods of managing the economy," Gorbachev told the gathering of several hundred people on the third day of his 12-day visit here.

"But it is very important that you support this process," the former Kremlin leader urged, adding, "this is a historic task given the fact that this is a task of incorporating the economy of Russia into the world economy."

"Surely the young Russian democracy will duly repay the efforts of those who at this difficult moment—a moment when things are still hanging in the balance—will help it," he said.

Gorbachev, lamenting that economic ties between Russia and Japan are lagging behind their potential, said, "I think the time has come to consider establishing a Russian-Japanese association of businessmen, which could pave the way for large-scale Japanese investment, particularly in Siberia, the Far East and the Urals region."

He said Japanese help in developing an "open market" in Russia and other republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) "can impart very powerful impetus to the development of world economy."

"I think this may be the last big market in the world that has tremendous untapped potential," Gorbachev said. "It is very important to understand and develop appropriate policies for this, particularly now when the industrially developed countries are concerned about signs of long-term recession."

He said he is optimistic that economic ties between Japan and Russia will eventually flower, as the two countries are neighbors and there is a compatibility between Japan's "high technologies" and Russia's "tremendous intellectual and natural resources."

Gorbachev attributed the difficulties seen today in bilateral economic relations primarily to "the fact that the new economy is just emerging in our country."

"We still have the stranglehold of state ownership, we still have a lot of confusion, we have a lot of bureaucratic inertia, we do not yet have a solid legal, juridical basis for the economy, and it is not always clear how the property and ownership questions are solved," he noted.

"But those are not the reasons to stay aloof, to stay on the sidelines. The economy of Japan is very powerful and it should take a risk."

Gorbachev did not touch directly on the two countries' territorial dispute over a group of Russian-occupied islands off Hokkaido, but said the "profound change" in Russian public opinion toward Japan "creates the prerequisites for great change in bilateral relations."

He called for the two countries to sign a peace treaty "that would draw a final line under the second World War and would create a necessary international, legal base for our relations."

"I think today no insurmountable obstacles exist for greater cooperation and even partnership between our two countries," Gorbachev said, adding, "the stakes are very high."

Meets With University Students

OW1404092492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Japanese students Tuesday that the young generation can solve global problems more easily than his since it is not bound by stereotypes.

"Our generation was able to work for the conciliation of the world and I think we can leave something for your generation," Gorbachev said at the Aoyama Gakuin University Hall packed with some 1,800 students from the unversity as well as its affiliated high school and college.

"But your generation is not bound by stereotypes so it may be easier for you to solve problems," he said.

In an hour-long discussion with seven university students, he said the Russian youths are also inclined to favor more leisure hours than becoming "workaholics," as is the tendency in Japan.

"A society where people can fully demonstrate their abilities and creativity will have higher productivity, intelligence and humanness," he said.

"But we must also remember the important things our parents' generation have taught us, such as respect for labor, land and our home country."

Asked what he would do differently about perestroyka if he could go back to 1985, Gorbachev said he would have altered his tactical approach.

"I would make the same choice as I did in 1985," he said.

The former Soviet president arrived in Japan on Saturday for a 12-day stay at the invitation of a committee headed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

He visited Japan last year as the first Soviet leader to set foot in Japan.

Asked about AIDS and prompted by his wife Raisa to seriously take up problems surrounding AIDS at the Gorbachev Fund, Gorbachev said, "since my better half says so, we will take it into consideration."

Raisa Gorbachev told the students that society must try and solve problems faced by women in light of their expanded role in society.

About 93 percent of women in Russia have jobs but are now struggling to divide their time between their families and jobs, she said.

"At present, women have to find solutions themselves but I don't think everybody has found the best solution," she said. "Society should make more efforts and help them find solutions."

Asked about responses within the former Soviet Union to her becoming the first wife of a Soviet president to assume a high profile in the mass media, she said she received mixed responses from the people.

"In other countries, it is quite normal for wives to appear in public and play certain social roles. But during the past 70 years in our country, there was a tradition that the people didn't even know about the wives of their leaders," Mrs. Gorbachev said.

"I received hundreds of letters of support and gratitude (for appearing in public) but there were also a lot of opposite opinions."

The Gorbachevs were greeted by a large cheering crowd outside the university hall and walked toward it to wave before stepping into a limousine.

Antimonopoly Chief Views U.S. Antitrust Policy

OW1404063792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The chief of Japan's monopoly watchdog agency fired another salvo Tuesday against a new U.S. antitrust policy, urging the U.S. not to expand its reach overseas.

Setsuo Umezawa, chairman of the Fair Trade Commission, said Washington's recent decision to apply U.S. antitrust laws to foreign business practices deemed to have hurt American exports might violate international law by undermining the sovereignty of other countries. Curbing monopolistic business practices can be dealt with "most appropriately and effectively" by the concerted efforts of authorities in the countries involved, he said, criticizing the U.S. move widely seen as targeting Japan.

In a speech at a seminar on Japan-U.S. competition law, Umezawa also voiced concern that using antitrust laws only to protect the interests of exporting companies might be an abuse of such laws.

"Trade and antitrust policies are clearly separated and should not be confused," he said.

The antimonopoly chief said Japan will continue asking the U.S. Government to act carefully on the antitrust issue, paying due attention to Japanese concerns. Calling it important to harmonize the diverse antitrust laws of various countries, Umezawa proposed more active use of the organization for economic cooperation and development.

Of Japan's antimonopoly policy, Umezawa boasted a number of measures his commission has taken in recent years to beef up enforcement of the country's Antimonopoly Law. The measures, taken partly in response to an agreement at the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative talks, include increased penalties against illegal cartels and guidelines on business practices in the distribution sector, he said. But Umezawa defended Japan's "keiretsu" system of business groupings tied by interlocking shareholdings, which Washington charges excludes foreign companies.

"It is not valid to define all keiretsu as anticompetitive," he said.

It is natural that Japan's view of such practices differs from those of the United States and other industrial nations because they reflect the different characteristics of each market, he said.

Komeito 'Ready To Consult' on Peacekeeping Force

OW1404084592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa hinted Tuesday the party may support a proposal by the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) to require Diet approval for the overseas dispatch of Japanese peacekeeping forces.

Speaking at a meeting of party legislators, Ichikawa said Komeito is ready to consult with the DSP on the matter so long as the DSP does not backpedal from a conditional endorsement of Komeito's proposal.

His comments came two days after DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said his party may support Komeito's proposal to "freeze" government-proposed legislation to send peacekeeping forces abroad if Komeito agrees to the Diet endorsement idea.

Opposition parties are trying to kill or place conditions on the bill to send Japanese ground forces overseas to assist in United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia or elsewhere.

The bill also envisages sending troops abroad to help in disaster-relief operations.

Ouchi called Sunday for other political parties to write into the proposed law clear wording about under what conditions peacekeeping forces could be dispatched.

Ichikawa's remarks represented a departure from Komeito's previous position it would reject any proposals to give conditional approval to such a dispatch, political analysts said.

The analysts said his remarks imply Komeito is softening its staunch opposition to peacekeeping dispatch and taking an increasingly conciliatory stance towards the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the chief advocate of the legislation.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said at a news conference Monday his government will seek the passage of the bill during the current Diet session.

Nongovernmental Group To Give Goods to Cambodia

OW1304111492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—A Japanese nongovernmental organization on April 20 will ship to Cambodia relief goods totaling some 30 tons, group officials said Monday.

The Peace Boat Organization said the goods include wheel chairs, medical supplies, foods, clothing, sewing machines and 22 tons of paper for school textbooks.

The 22 tons of paper are equivalent to 200,000 textbooks, or one third of the total amount of schoolbooks necessary for a year, the officials said. Of the paper, a group of housewives in Fukuoka collected some 11 tons, they said.

Among the other goods are 41 wheel chairs for Cambodians who lost their legs by mines during the 13-year war, which ended last October, as well as 26,000 syringes and medical equipment.

The organization will also ship 150 used sewing machines for vocational training for Cambodian women, which were fixed by employees of a major sewing machine maker, the officials said.

The 12,798-ton Russian ship M/V Rus with 360 Japanese aboard is scheduled to leave Hakata Port in Fukuoka on April 20 and arrive at Kompong Thom Port on April 27.

The goods will be handed over to the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh. Cambodian National Conciliation leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk is reportedly considering attending a ceremony to be held upon the arrival of the goods.

Peace boat member Nobuko Kato, 22, said the organization collected some 4 million yen in donations in less than two months.

Environment, Copyrights on Watanabe China Agenda

OW1304100492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Environmental conservation, intellectual property rights, and Japanese Government aid will be the main topics on the agenda when International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe visits China this weekend, a senior government official said Monday.

Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, told a press conference that Watanabe is scheduled to meet his Chinese counterpart Li Lanqing, and probably Prime Minister Li Peng, and other senior Chinese officials during his four-day tour from Friday.

Watanabe was supposed to make a trip to Beijing in late March, but was forced to cancel it due to the tight schedule of the current Diet session.

Tanahashi said Watanabe will raise the issue of China's planned construction of coal-fired thermal power plants along the coast, which may lack desulfurization facilities and are causing worries about possible pollution from them reaching Japan.

Watanabe will offer to receive trainees, send experts, and provide other forms of aid under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's Green Aid Plan, aimed at assisting developing countries which are facing environmental hazards resulting from their rapid economic growth.

Watanabe will also remind Chinese officials of Japan's dissatisfaction with what Tokyo sees as a discriminatory China-U.S. pact on intellectual property rights, which commits China to protecting U.S. copyrights and patents from piracy.

Also on the agenda will be the question of how to smoothly disburse Japan's 810 billion yen loan package to China, promised in 1988 for fiscal 1990-95, and joint oil development of inland China, Tanahashi said.

Tokyo Plans To Continue Financial Aid to Peru

OW1404104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan plans to continue financial assistance to Peru while noting an Organization of American States resolution urging the South American nation to restore its Constitution, a cabinet spokesman said Tuesday.

"We have to watch developments, including Peru's response to the resolution. For the present we will continue" providing aid, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Ishihara said Japan would take the resolution into consideration in evaluating its relations with Peru, the first country outside of Japan to be headed by a leader of Japanese descent.

Foreign ministers from the 34-member Organization of American States approved a 10-point resolution Monday that "greatly deplored" President Alberto Fujimori's move last week to dissolve Peru's congress and suspend its Constitution. The U.S. has frozen some aid to the South American country, which is struggling against Maoist Shining Path guerillas and drug traders. Washington has also threatened to block new multilateral assistance unless democratic institutions are restored.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa, meeting earlier in the day with foreign correspondents, said Japan "has always been careful in making a decision as to whether or not to suspend assistance" to recipient countries.

"Our assistance (to Peru) is vast and the consequences (of an aid stoppage) on the livelihood of the Peruvian people would be immediate," Hanabusa said.

The spokesman added that the objective of Japan's aid program is "to help the Peruvian people, not the government as such."

Hanabusa acknowledged that "there is probably some subtle difference" in the reactions of Japan and those of other Western countries to the emergency measures announced last week by Fujimori.

"It is not that we don't support the movement towards democracy in Peru, it is a question of how we go about doing it," he said.

Hanabusa said Fujimori's emergency measures had "posed a dilemma" for Japan, as it had only last month promised a large package of assistance to Peru during the president's visit here. He said the assistance was partly in appreciation of Fujimori's progress in tackling the country's thorny domestic problems.

"We did not have any impression that President Fujimori was up to anything during his stay in Tokyo and surely we were not consulted," he said.

Brazilian Minister Requests Earth Summit Aid

OW1304120792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Brazilian Economics Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira on Monday called on Japan to play a substantial role in funding and supporting the holding of the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Officials said Moreira made the call in a 40-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Moreira was quoted as saying that preparations for the summit, known formally as the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), are proceeding smoothly. But he added that how the meeting is to be financed remains a "key point."

Moreira, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a weeklong unofficial visit, said work remains to be done in constructing lodging and transportation facilities for conference attendees.

He said Brazil hopes that financial problems faced in advance of the conference will be ironed out at the UNCED-sponsored gathering in Tokyo from Wednesday to Friday. The meeting, held under the direction of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, is to include some 20 influential persons from around the world.

Officials said Moriera invited Watanabe to attend the Rio conference. He is expected to reiterate an invitation for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to attend when he pays a courtesy call on the Japanese leader Tuesday.

Watanabe told Moriera it cannot be said for sure now whether Miyazawa's busy schedule will permit him to attend, but in any event either he himself or Miyazawa would make the trip to Rio de Janeiro.

Officials said Watanabe noted that Brazil's rate of inflation has been steadily falling under the direction of Moriera, who took office last May and survived last month's major cabinet reshuffle by President Fernando Collor de Mello.

They said Watanabe praised the debt-rescheduling agreement Brazil reached last February with foreign government creditors in the so-called Paris Club.

Brazil, whose 116 billion dollar external debt is the highest among developing countries, agreed to pay those governments 4.9 billion dollars in principal and interest between 1992 and 1993 on the 21 billion dollars it owes them.

Watanabe also lauded an understanding on economic policy reached last January between Brazil and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to which Brazil owes 1.4 billion dollars.

Moriera visited Japan last September, at which time Japan said it would unfreeze 64 billion yen in loans to Brazil in response to that country's repayment of all its debt arrears to Japan.

Officials said Moriera is scheduled to meet Tuesday with Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata.

Prime Minister Miyazawa Holds News Conference

OW1404055292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0500 GMT 13 Apr 92

[News conference by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with unidentified reporters in Tokyo on 13 April—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Last week, the budget for the present fiscal year was enacted. The Diet session will now enter its second half. I think there are still many pending issues. I would first like to ask the prime minister how he intends to deal with the second half of the Diet session.

[Miyazawa] The budget has been enacted at a relatively early period. I would like to thank the various parties for their cooperation. I would also like to take this opportunity to pray for the repose of Mr. Yamamura's soul.

Since the budget has been enacted, the implementation of the budget as promptly as possible is the most important thing. That is the first point in my reply to your question. Because the slowdown of the economy is quite serious, we wanted to implement the budget as soon as possible. As you all know, in late March we took the unusual step of deciding on seven emergency economic measures even before the fiscal year had started. Front-loading of public work projects and other measures are impossible without the enactment of the budget. Therefore, the first thing to do now is to implement the emergency economic measures promptly.

Second, the deliberations on the PKO [Peacekeeping Operations] have been going on for three Diet sessions. According to the schedules, the House of Councillors committee concerned will start deliberations on the bill this week. I will do all in my power to pass the bill in the Diet. To this end, I will exert all possible efforts.

Another issue is political reform, on which I have issued an order to the party. The party has also given me an interim report on the urgent reforms. I would like to implement them during the present Diet session. The meeting of the consultative body of the various political parties on political reform has been called, and such meetings will be held every week. With regard to the question of political ethics, this has been delegated to party officials at the working level. We will formulate the relevant legislation based on agreements reached at the consultative body, and will strive to pass them during the present Diet session. Certainly, there are also things that our party can do alone. Thus, we would like to come up with substantial results in political reform in the present Diet. These are the three issues I have in mind at present.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, [words indistinct] with regard to the PKO bill, there has been talk about freezing the PKF [Peacekeeping Forces], or a so-called legislation with a time limit [jigen rippo]. First, please tell us the concrete steps you plan to take on the matter.

Second, during your meeting with freshman Diet members the other day, you said that regarding the PKO bill, it might be necessary to fight to the utmost possible limit. This may be interpreted as meaning you are prepared even to dissolve the Diet if driven into a corner on the PKO Bill. What, in fact, was the situation and measure you had in mind when you gave that statement? I would like to ask the above two questions.

[Miyazawa] My thinking is—and I think the people will sympathize with me—that Japan is an Asian country, and we are proud of that fact. At present, in Asia, in a not so far away place, at a time when peace in Cambodia is about to be accomplished through UN peacekeeping operations, it would be anomalous if we were unable to do anything despite the fact that we are so close, particularly as Japan is a country which has conducted its diplomacy through the United Nations. Cambodia will be the largest peacekeeping operation in UN history. Moreover, the special envoy of the UN secretary general sent to lead the organization in Cambodia is Japanese, as is the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. No matter how you look at it, it is ridiculous if Japan does nothing toward achieving peace in Cambodia. When Premier Hun Sen visited us recently, he said that dozens of countries are sending their personnel and asked why Japan was not sending any. Mr. Sihanouk has also made the same request. Such is the situation. Therefore, if we do not pass the bill this time, I think people will say, what kind of a country is Japan?

The bill has been deliberated on in three Diet sessions. Deliberations in the upper house are about to start. While I remain unchanged in my conviction that the bill initially drafted by the government is the best, a law can only come about based on deliberations in the Diet. Needless to say, we have to respect the view of the Diet. The bill has been partly revised in the lower house and sent to the upper house. I understand the situation. I know that it would not be possible to get everything the government wants. Taking into consideration the Cambodian situation and what we need to do, of course, the opinion of the Diet has the highest priority; however, we have to respond to the UN request effectively and promptly, and the relevant legislation on this should have permanent validity and should be comprehensive, if possible.

[Reporter] What about the second point of my question regarding your statement at the meeting with freshman Diet members?

[Miyazawa] Yes. For the past several years, we have been making various behind-the-scenes contacts on the PKO bill with other parties. These contacts are being made very extensively in many places. I myself am participating in the contacts. Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] are aware of the need for the bill, but Rengo [Labor Union Confederation] takes an unclear stance on it. While we are making such extensive contacts, there are parties that say they cannot support the bill. These parties say that in no way can they support it. But the UN peacekeeping operations, as I have said so many times in the Diet, are conducted on the basis of persuasion and trust, and under the condition that there be absolutely no war.

I cannot understand the viewpoint that Japan cannot take part in operations that have been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. To deal with such a viewpoint, we will need to make our positions clear. We will have to get these parties' understanding on the bill and do everything to get it passed. I told these freshman Diet members that we cannot give up just because these parties oppose it.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Miyazawa] As I said, Japan will probably have to do something this time. There are various arguments about what should be done. But I cannot agree to the argument that the majority of the Japanese people do not want Japan to do anything. Since we cannot yield to the views of those not accepting the bill, we have no choice but to insist on our position on this red-carpeted floor. I think that is the fundamental of democracy.

[Reporter] One major task facing you is political reform. Negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties are under way. [question indistinct]

[Miyazawa] It was in February that I first gave out four points of instructions to the head of the party Political Reform Headquarters. I told him that fundamental reform should be pursued, with November as a target date, and since issues like those concerning the number of Dietmen, political funds, political ethics, and party and Diet reform are urgent, I asked him to submit a report on them by the middle of March. I made requests on these four points and received a report from him on 13 March as promised. The parties then began discussions based on this report. They are meeting once a week, and their first subject of discussions is political ethics. Now the political ethics involves four issues—violation of discipline, strengthening of the Political Ethics Review Committee, disclosure of information on politicians' assets, and suspension and limitation of citizenship for candidates. Regarding these four points, the Political Reform Consultation Committee obtained agreement from the parties that they should be addressed at working-level meetings.

Next the issues of political funding, reform of parties and the Diet, and the number of Diet members will be taken up in succession. These matters will be finalized by 28 May. I think the work is going very well and is on schedule. Once conclusions are reached at working-level meetings, action for legislation will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. In other words, the consultation committee in fact is in the process of addressing the issues which should be taken up by the Diet. Of course, there is the possibility that at the last stage, views of the parties cannot be consolidated, and legislation will not make progress. Today, Mr. Kajiyama [a floor leader in the Diet] said that the work can be done by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] alone. I think the same. But still it is desirable that the legislation process proceed in consultation with all parties.

I think there will come a time when I have to explain my views specifically to LDP Political Reform Headquarters once again. I think there will come a time when I have to make specific decisions after negotiations in the parties' consultation committee have made certain progress. When the time comes, I will first hear views within the party, but I will give my views and make my requests.

[Reporter] There have been major scandals involving members of this current Diet, and a member has been arrested. In that sense, this is an instance in which the Diet's ability to cleanse itself has been called into question. Even though talks continue between ruling and opposition parties, there remain only about 70 days in the current session. If no concrete agreement is arrived at between the ruling and opposition parties before the end of the session, what do you intend to do?

Next, on Article 14 of the Constitution, not political reform. Readjusting electoral distribution is a difficult and time-consuming issue that involves, for instance, the question of increasing seat numbers for eight constituencies while decreasing them for seven constituencies. What is your view on this? Do you intend to show some kind of leadership in this regard as well?

Regarding that, I made a rather clear statement when I issued instructions in February. Basic principles on the matter are contained in the 13 March report on urgent political reform issues. The issues concerning Diet seats and the gap in weight of individual votes were dealt with in the report on urgent issues. Our party is participating in negotiations on political reform with other parties, based on this report of recommendations on urgent issues.

That being the case, I believe my thinking has been taken into account. As for your question, when the time comes for me to make things clearer, I will make a clear-cut decision.

[Reporter] Will you do so before the end of the Diet session?

[Miyazawa] Of course, it will be before the end of the current Diet session.

[Reporter] Does that mean that there is no change in your resolve to do something about the electoral redistricting question before the end of this Diet session?

[Miyazawa] These principles were clearly stated in the party's report on urgent issues.

[Reporter] My question concerns the so-called issue of politics and money—or political ethics—which is also related to the fundamental political reform plan to be prepared by November. Many younger LDP people are issuing strong statements that say that the existing medium electoral districting increases the need for huge amounts of money in campaigns and that the current election system needs to be drastically reformed.

There are also views within opposition parties, as well as Rengo, that favor a proportional representation system coupled with a small constituency system. No doubt there are major obstacles to this question.

Does your fundamental reform plan envisage reforming the existing medium electoral districting system too? Would you tell me if a fair picture of this will become clear in the design to be finalized in [words indistinct] by November? What are its prospects?

[Miyazawa] When I issued instructions to the Political Reform Headquarters in February, I requested that recommendations on the four points be submitted by the middle of March, since these were urgent reform issues. When I issued these instructions, I also clearly noted that because these matters were related to the fundamental reform plans needed by November, the report on these urgent issues should take that point into account.

As such, the report is on urgent issues and declares itself a set of recommendations on fundamental reforms for the future. Hence, I do not think there can be any misunderstanding in that regard.

The urgent matters you asked about should be dealt with in the context of fundamental reforms. The reason why we called the report urgent is because these are issues to be dealt with urgently. If you ask me if fundamental reforms would not be necessary since urgent reforms are carried out, the answer is: fundamental reforms will need to be dealt with as fundamental reforms per se, and they need to be continued.

[Reporter] Around what time before November, do you think, will there be a conclusion?

[Miyazawa] Urgent reform matters need to be dealt with first. After they have been confirmed and have become adopted into actual systems, we will think about the next step.

[Reporter] I would like to ask about economic measures. The 1992 fiscal budget was passed, but then stock prices went down. Also, as you remarked earlier, the economic slowdown is spreading. Other countries also want to see sustained growth of the Japanese economy. What is your view on the economy? What points do you intend to emphasize in managing the economy?

[Miyazawa] First, regarding the recent economic slump, even though I do not mean to put it lightly, this kind of thing has happened many, many times before in my experiences with the Japanese economy over 30-40 years. Japan is what it is today after overcoming several difficulties. My basic thinking is that Japan has the capability of overcoming the present downturn. Again, I do not intend to take this lightly.

For instance, the last great depression was between 1986 and 1987, shortly after the Plaza Accord in September 1985. I remember that well, because I was the man in charge of urgent economic measures at that time.

The prime difference between then and now is that although this time the rate of economic growth is low, there is no problem of unemployment. The ratio of effective labor demand to effective supply means the ratio of how many jobs are available for each person seeking a job. Last month, this figure was 1.25 to 1. All along, this has been between 1.3 to 1.4. That means there is no unemployment problem; rather, there is a labor shortage. In 1986 the figure was 0.6, and in 1987 it was 0.7. Since there was no full single job available for each person seeking a job, there was a serious unemployment problem. As a result, cities that once flourished from steel and ship-building industries became desolate, and it was a very serious situation. That was only five to six years ago, but we overcame that.

Although I do not take the present situation lightly, the fact that there is no unemployment problem, compared to those times, makes it much, much easier to deal with the situation. Certainly, the bubble existed, and since investment in plant and equipment continued for three years at the rate of two-digit figures, this was bound to result in surplus inventories. Presently, inventory adjustments are now being conducted. Although some started the adjustment as early as last summer, a significant number of industries appear to have begun adjustments at the end of last year. In other words, there was a delay in taking actions. Hence, the problem now is how to deal with this situation.

Because I already foresaw late last year when this year's budget was formed that the economic slowdown would be rather great, I thought we should boldly increase public works projects, whether they be from the general account, fiscal investments, or local government program funds. We thought that we should in addition front-load the projects. I believe this will be very effective. At the same time, we have also asked electric power companies and other companies to cooperate in this regard.

Meanwhile, since there was no change in the fact that labor-saving investment was necessary for medium and small enterprises suffering from labor shortages, there have been such measures as extension of loans and reduction of interest rates—the latter measure by the Bank of Japan. As for housing, the Housing Loan Corporation is taking such actions as revising loan conditions, which will be advantageous to borrowers, extending the length of loans and reducing interest rates. All of this together should have great effects on the economy that is going through inventory adjustments.

The important thing here is that, unlike the period from 1986-1987, there is no unemployment problem. With the levels of wages and salaries stabilized to a certain extent, there is no tendency toward dropping consumption. Fortunately, prices are stable, so there should not be much concern over reduced consumption. When all these things are considered, it becomes clear that the matter comes down to the question of how well the government's plans and efforts by the central, local, and civilian sectors can help overcome this period of inventory adjustments. Although the bubble issue existed, this case, in essence, is an issue of economic cycles.

It is often said that it is the darkest right before dawn. Talking in terms of yearly quarters, the quarter from January to March has just passed. As to how the economy fared in this January-March period, the Economic Planning Agency says it will not know until June, but I feel that domestic demand has started to climb, with the January-March period as a starting point. That is to say, the January-March period may have been the lowest point. It is already April, and I think that the economy is on the rise.

It is difficult to say, for instance, if it will end by summer. But I think the economy in the April-June period in fact is beginning to emerge from the bottom. Well-considered financial measures will be effectuated on top of this. Hence, as I said earlier, the situation will be not be like it was in 1986-1987. As for enterprises that plan labor-saving investment, I feel that interest rates will be no lower than now, although this is up to the Bank of Japan. Thus, now may be the best time to make the investment. This will be more so as inventory adjustment progresses. This is the way I see it. I feel domestic demand will revive in this fashion.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, you seem to be quite confident about economic recovery. But still some LDP members are calling for a supplementary budget. It has also been reported that at the follow-up meeting of the recent SII [Structural Impediments Initiative] talks, the U.S. side asked the Japanese side to work out a supplementary budget. What do you think about this idea of working out a supplementary budget? Some are calling for a cut in investment taxes and income taxes. What is your view on these concrete calls?

[Miyazawa] First, it is said that a major obstacle to the front-loading of 75 percent of government public works projects at this moment is the issue of design capability for public works projects. Even at the private-sector level, lack of design capability and other reasons are major stumbling blocks to further front-loading. In fact, we cannot provide further front-loading of public works projects. Therefore, 75 percent of front-loading is our limit. It is no wonder that everybody will wonder what is going on after 75 percent of front-loaded public works projects are used by September. Therefore, without taking future situations into consideration, it has been impossible for us to decide on front-loading 75 percent of the public works projects. At this moment, I believe that the emergency economic measures we have decided on are the best and certainly the most effective. A situation will not occur in which the Japanese economy will end up with people asking: will there be no jobs after September? Although I do not think I should discuss the future situation in detail, seeing as these economic measures have just been announced, we have worked out the economic measures after fully taking the future into consideration. What we need to do is to make money when it is needed. It is a simple matter. We have given careful considerations to all this so that people will not worry about the future.

In connection with the tax cut, through recent drastic reform of the tax system our nation's taxable income has become the highest among those in industrialized countries, which means that taxable limits are the highest of any nation. In addition, the lowest tax rate is also lower than those in other nations. Therefore, I do not think that there are any problems with income tax. I do not think that it would be proper to seek another source of tax revenue instead of cutting income taxes. Thus, I am not considering the clear-cut deduction of income tax.

Regarding the cut in investment tax, in truth, I have asked for opinions from concerned government officials about this possibility. Then I discovered that measures had already been incorporated in the tax system for fiscal 1992 when it was prepared. The cut in investment taxes will be applied to new plant and equipment investment. Depending on the types of equipment, there are now 25 categories for the cut in investment taxes. Regarding investment for labor-saving devices or investment for shortening work hours, for example, measures have been applied in the form of accelerated depreciation; there have also been other steps. Due to this, there are no new requests from concerned ministries and agencies.

The fact is that cuts in investment taxes amount to 400 billion yen. Careful attention has been paid to cuts in investment taxes. This is a fact. However, if someone proposes other measures, asking the government to study his proposal, I am ready and willing to hear opinions, because cuts in investment taxes do not require a lot of revenues. However, the actual situation is that enterprises can somehow avail themselves of the existing 25 categories for equipment and investment tax deductions. Therefore, in fact, there are few voices that call for cuts in investment taxes. Of course, if opinions are expressed, I am willing to study them.

[Reporter] I would like to ask for your view on the Earth Summit. The issue of appropriating funds for preserving the global environment has become a very big problem. There has been a proposal to levy an environment tax and a carbon dioxide emissions tax on industrialized nations. How do you plan to deal with this issue? Some are calling for a study of a tax on tobacco and a rise in consumption taxes in order to appropriate funds. What do you think about these ideas?

[Miyazawa] The UN Conference on the Environment and Development, UNCED, will be held in June. In fact, preparatory work for the conference has not been completed yet. At any rate, although Japan is playing a leading role in promoting UNCED, attention should be focused on the future of UNCED as a whole. In addition, I think that attention should also be paid to discussion at the Eminent Persons' Meeting to be held in Japan under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Takeshita.

I understand that the environmental issue requires new funds. But I think that we need to ascertain whether the fund in question concerns industrialized nations' international responsibilities to share funds to help developing countries, or whether it concerns the new financial situation in Japan.

With regard to the domestic financial situation, we spend a considerable amount of money every year on environmental issues. What is important is that each enterprise should bear the burden of funding environmental projects as much as possible. In other words, before asking the government to provide money, all enterprises should study possible measures, including collection and recycling of waste. If they should fail at this, the government would have to provide funds; this is not the best way. Industrialized nations have indicated that enterprises should bear the costs. I think that in industrialized nations like Japan, enterprises should study how to bear the cost of preserving the environment.

Under UNCED, underdeveloped countries are asking for the industrialized nations to share funds, and are calling for support for development projects. They are calling for both environmental preservation and development.

Japan, for its part, has already provided considerable Official Development Assistance [ODA] in connection with the environment. Of the total ODA, funds for preserving the environment account for about 12 percent. We are appropriating these funds.

But in addition to this, through UNCED activities, industrialized nations may come to share certain costs. When it becomes reality, I think that the United Nations, which has a financing system or funds in place, should expand its financing system first. A fund should first be established by the United Nations to preserve the environment. Then, as a next step, although industrialized nations may be asked to bear additional costs, I think that the United Nations should expand these funds.

Japan is willing to bear costs in order that this idea may come to fruition. This is the second task.

Third, this may be an issue for the future. I do not think this will happen suddenly, but considering the scale of the problem, I think we should think about it. There have been discussions at the OECD on this issue, and it also was discussed at the London summit. We need to think about it in advance. However, even if such a fund is established for the sake of the environment, taxes are still a burden on the people. For our part, we would like to do our best to keep the sum total of the tax burden and the social security burden below the 50-percent mark, unlike other advanced countries. It is always important for us to ensure, through economic management, that the burden on the people is not excessive. Therefore, even if new burdens have to be imposed in the future to deal with the environmental issue, I think we have to keep this in mind when considering policy measures. This is because no matter what form the new burden takes, it will still be a burden to our people. This is a case in which, although the purpose is benevolent, we cannot lightly impose additional taxes. I think various schemes are necessary.

[Reporter] I would like to ask a question on foreign affairs. General Secretary Jiang Zemin came for a visit recently, and during the visit, the question of the emperor's visit to China was a major issue. Mr. Prime Minister, you avoided giving a clear-cut answer on the schedule of the visit. On the other hand, it is said that there are opinions inside the LDP opposing the visit. Mr. Wan Li is also coming shortly. I think this issue will be raised again. Mr. Prime Minister, what is your view of the emperor's visit to China?

[Miyazawa] General Secretary Jiang Zemin reiterated the invitation for the emperor to visit China in the fall of this year, which is a significant year marking the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. I gave him the reply that, on the part of the government, we would like to consider this seriously. That is precisely my thinking right now. Needless to say, His Majesty is completely divorced from politics. In this sense, we should make sure that his visit to China is not used politically, or that it should come to have a political connotation. We would like him to make the visit amid the blessings and spontaneous sentiments of the Chinese people welcoming him as a guest. Therefore, when the invitation was extended recently, I replied that we would like to seriously consider it.

[Reporter] Please let me ask about support for the CIS. I heard that German Chancellor Kohl had requested Japan's participation in CIS aid programs, and that you had said, in general, Japan intends to positively take part in the multinational framework. However, concerning CIS policy, Japan has a principle of nonseparation between economic and political issues in view of the northern territories issue, and it has been said that even government officials have various opinions as to what extent Japan can get involved in multinational aid for the CIS, as well as whether Japan should independently offer aid programs. What is your basic position on this issue?

[Miyazawa] The CIS—in particular, the Russian Federation—intends to pursue democracy and a market economy system, and this is a favorable trend not only for Japan but also for the whole world. My basic position is that I would like to do everything our nation can to support these reform efforts. As a matter of course, Japan's support is a sign of the Japanese public's goodwill, friendship, and hope for a desirable future for the former Soviet Union, or Russia. I told this to Mr. Yeltsin in January, and this is a matter of common knowledge.

It appears that the Foreign Ministry has begun to stress the need for a balanced expansion of bilateral ties instead of the nonseparation principle. The two nations should settle the longstanding territorial issue based on bilateral goodwill, and then they should conclude a peace treaty. Russia says it intends to show us goodwill based on law and justice, and we are going to offer support for the former Soviet Union, or the

Russian Federation, so it can keep pursuing the new direction I mentioned earlier. There should be a halfway point between the two sides' goodwill.

Therefore, the question is at what stage, or under what circumstances, this point should be set. Japan has already started hunanitarian and technological assistance programs, and they should be continued. In connection with this, IMF Managing Director Camdessus—he is an old friend of mine—has recently told me that there has been favorable progress in technical negotiations between the IMF and Russia. He said that the two sides have almost agreed on aid programs to be provided by the IMF, and these programs should be implemented as soon as Russia obtains IMF membership. As a member nation, Japan will contribute to the IMF, which plans to offer aid programs to Russia, and, in my opinion, this can be justified from the viewpoint of the so-called balanced expansion principle.

While some quarters have proposed an $18 billion fund for Russia, this does not represent a very final figure as you know. There are various opinions on how much Russia's deficit in international payments in 1992 will be, and the $18 billion proposal was based on one of these speculations. Our nation already is committed to contribute $2.6 billion to the fund, and the total amount of the fund is supposed to be finalized depending on how much each nation can offer. We may be expected to offer additional contributions in the future, but it is not clear so far if the $18 billion proposal was based on truly accurate data. Some people claim the amount could be smaller.

There is another question. Mr. Camdessus said that the IMF would raise the issue of a ruble stabilization fund at the industrialized nations' summit. Regarding the question of the $6 billion that German Chancellor Kohl recently mentioned, if the money is necessary to stabilize the ruble, there is always the General Agreement on Borrowing [GAB], which is now run by the IMF. About 10 industrialized nations, including Saudi Arabia, are making financial contributions to the GAB. I think the $6 billion can easily be raised from the GAB. I believe Japan will agree on the use of the GAB to raise the money. I also think that Japan has not been at a loss on how to deal with international finance assistance to the CIS. This question will perhaps be raised frequently in the future. For now, Japan is not in a situation in which it is compelled to decide on the issue. I believe that the question will be raised at the industrialized nations' summit. The IMF and other international monetary organizations are now studying how financial assistance should be provided to the CIS.

[Reporter] The ratio of Japan's contribution to the IMF is 11.5 percent. In the event that it is decided to provide $6 billion to the CIS, Japan would pay $750 million, and this amount is close to $1 billion.

[Miyazawa] If the GAB is used, this would not immediately commit Japan to share the $6 billion cost, and yet Japan should, under the auspices of the GAB, share in the cost of providing financial assistance to the CIS. In conclusion, this issue will not harm the Japanese Government's finances. I think that Japan will ask other industrialized nations to use the IMF for financial assistance to the CIS.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, you are scheduled to visit Germany and France during Golden Week. Your agenda is expected to include the discussion of financial assistance to the CIS, which has just been mentioned, the Uruguay Round, and the summit in July. What issues do you think will be discussed during your upcoming European trip? Also, please tell us how Japan should deal with the CIS.

[Miyazawa] We have drawn up a very hectic schedule for my European visit. Actually, I think it will be good to meet with the leaders of France and Germany before the July summit. That is all there is to it. I know both of them personally, but it will be my first visit after assuming my present post. This is my foremost objective. At the same time, I intend to discuss global issues with them, as well as the issue of providing assistance to the CIS, Europe's future following the Maastricht talks, and bilateral relations.

[Reporter] My question concerns the global environment summit scheduled to be held in Brazil in June. Mr. Prime Minister, I have heard that you plan to attend the summit. However, leaders of the ruling LDP are voicing opposition to your attendance at the summit, citing the schedule for the Diet. What do you think?

[Miyazawa] Yes, environmental problems are becoming a major global issue. The problems are also taking on the character of a North-South issue. I think I should attend the summit. I may decide not to attend the summit because of political issues to be raised at the Diet. For now, I am not sure whether I will attend the summit. Basically, however, I think I should attend the summit.

[Reporter] If you attend the summit, what do you plan to stress there?

[Miyazawa] It depends on how many pending environmental problems are resolved before the summit is held. The most important problem is to set standards for the emission of carbonic acid by a specific year—for example, the year 2000. I believe that some sort of agreement on this issue should be reached at the summit. So far, no agreement has been reached on the problem. Therefore, I intend to focus my efforts on this purpose at the summit.

[Reporter] In terms of the political scene, prospects still remain unclear. There are people within both the ruling and the opposition parties who talk about the possibility of a simultaneous upper house and lower house election. Of course, you have the power to dissolve the Diet, but, Mr. Prime Minister, what do you think about this? This is my first question. My next question is this: If the upper house election is held separately... [changes thought]

People in the LDP are already talking about a make-or-break line of 60 or 65 seats; what do you think of this make-or-break line? This is my second question. Another question is this: Recently, there have been active discussions about a reorganization of the political sector after the House of Councillors election. What do you think about this? This my third and final question.

[Miyazawa] All three are difficult questions. [laughter] It is often said that no participant in an election intends to lose the race. Therefore, I do not think in terms of a make-or-break line; I intend to win all the seats. I really do think this way, and I should. As to a simultaneous upper and lower house elections, I have never thought about it. Finally, with regard to the question of what to do if we lose, and the issue of reorganizing the political sector, because I have no intention of losing, I am not going to talk about losing. Political reorganization is not a question of what to do tomorrow or the day after. It is a question of looking back on the entire history of Japanese politics and thinking about the future. Some people are talking about this in the context of a broad perspective. That is how I understand the issue.

[Reporter] I see.
[Moderator] Thank you.
[Miyazawa] Thank you.

LDP Candidate Wins By-Election in Ibaraki

OW1204125292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 12 Apr 92

[Text] Mito, April 12 KYODO—A Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate easily won Sunday's by-election for the House of Councillors in Ibaraki Prefecture in the absence of a powerful contestant from the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The LDP's Yasu Kano, 57, beat Tatsuo Nara, 59, of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), by a wide margin of nearly 4-1 to fill one of the 252 seats in the upper chamber, vacated with the death of her husband, Akio Kano. The winner's term of office will run through July 1995. The SDP did not field a candidate in the election since Ibaraki Prefecture is regarded as a stronghold of the governing conservative party.

It was the LDP's second straight victory in Diet by-elections, following the sweeping of the two seats at stake in a by-election for the House of Representatives in Gunma Prefecture on March 29.

It was the fourth by-election for the Diet since Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa assumed power last November, succeeding Toshiki Kaifu.

LDP candidates lost the first two of those elections—for House of Councillors seats in Nara Prefecture on February 9 and Miyagi Prefecture on March 8—amid simmering voter criticism of a series of money scandals allegedly involving LDP politicians.

In Sunday's Ibaraki voting, Kano garnered 357,271 votes against Nara's 104,352 with all ballots counted, the Election Administration Commission said. Voter turnout was 22.34 percent, compared with 61.51 percent in July 1989 upper house elections, commission officials said. The by-election drew little attention from the prefecture's 1.12 million eligible voters, chiefly because the SDP failed to field a candidate, political analysts said.

The outcome boosted the LDP's strength in the 252-seat upper house to 114, compared with the SDP's 71. The No. 2 opposition party Komeito stands at 20 seats, JCP at 14, Rengo Sangiin at 13, the Democratic Socialist Party at 10, and Sangiin Club at 4. There are five independents and one vacant seat.

Hata Opposes Intervention in Stock Market

OW1404024092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday the government should not interfere in the slumping stock market to artificially prop up prices. Speaking at a press conference after a cabinet meeting, Hata also expressed hope that the stock market will start a recovery soon to restore investor confidence. Japan's economic condition is "not bad at all," compared with other countries, he said.

Trade Minister Says Economy 'Bottomed Out'

OW1404032792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Tuesday that Japan's economy has bottomed out and is in the process of leveling off or climbing.

At a press conference following a cabinet meeting, he said consumer demand will bounce back as the impact of the government's emergency economic package, which was implemented late last month, gradually takes effect. The current instability in the stock market should subside and the market should move in a healthy direction once the economic outlook becomes clearer, he said.

Watanabe suggested that a second or third emergency economic package may be needed to help the government meet its international responsibility of achieving 3.5 percent economic growth in fiscal 1992, which began on April 1.

North Korea

Official Says 3 Reactors To Be Inspected

OW1404085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 KYODO—North Korea will list three nuclear power plants, including the suspect

Yongbyon facility, in its initial report to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a North Korean atomic energy official said Tuesday.

Choe Chong-son, head of the Atomic Energy Ministry's Foreign Affairs Bureau, told reporters a 5,000-kilowatt experimental reactor at Yongbyon completed in 1986 as well as two reactors, respectively 50,000 kilowatts and 200,000 kilowatts, under construction will be the focus of the report to the IAEA.

Since the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly ratified the IAEA accord last week, the ministry has been drafting its report on nuclear materials and facilities, which it plans to submit to the IAEA at the end of May.

According to Choe, progress on the report has been progressing smoothly.

The Yongbyon facility has been the focus of international concern since U.S. intelligence sources suggested it is too big to be a power plant and more likely a reprocessing plant to produce weapons' grade plutonium.

Pyongyang has denied the allegations but has aroused international concern by refusing to submit the facility to IAEA inspections.

On Tuesday, Choe acknowledged North Korea is studying the nuclear reprocessing cycle, but denied it possesses a reprocessing plant.

Choe said North Korea is planning to introduce four new reactors in Sinpo, along its Japan Sea coast.

He acknowledged there are uranium refining sites at Pyongsan and Pakchon and uranium is being mined in Sunchon, but denied Western media reports of an underground facility.

Commentary Lauds Antinuclear Efforts

SK1004135892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Kyong-son: "Victory of Antinuclear Line"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK discussed the agenda item: On the Deliberation of the Proposal for the Ratification of the Safeguard Accords Under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Signed Between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The session adopted a decision to endorse the safeguard accords.

Our endorsement of the safeguard accords this time is a great victory won as the result of consistent efforts made by the government of the Republic to prevent the danger of nuclear war and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

As is known to all, the U.S. imperialists dragged nuclear weapons into South Korea from the late 1950's and made South Korea into the greatest advance nuclear base in the Far East and a source of nuclear war by deploying more than 1,000 nuclear weapons there. Each year beginning in 1976, the U.S. imperialists staged the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a test nuclear war exercise against us, thus increasing to an extreme point the danger of a nuclear war.

This was an outrageous infringement on our people's sovereignty and a vicious challenge to mankind's aspiration for peace. From the first day of nuclear weapons being introduced into South Korea, we offered a number of practical and reasonable proposals for withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, and vigorously waged the struggle to implement them.

Our participation in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985 was designed to force nuclear weapons out of South Korea, to remove the U.S. nuclear threat against us, and to turn the Korean peninsula into a zone free from nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the United States, instead of fulfilling its mission as a nuclear state, rather viciously applied pressure on us, who do not have nuclear weapons, to allow unilateral nuclear inspection while talking about our development of nuclear weapons and so forth.

However, with a view to fairly resolving the nuclear issue, we, who treasure independence as our own life, maintained that the United States should completely withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea, should not threaten us with nuclear weapons, and should allow simultaneous inspection on nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The United States, being unable to ignore our just demand any longer, admitted the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, even indirectly, and the South Korean authorities announced a so-called a nuclear nonexistence declaration. Following this, they agreed on a denuclearization declaration with us. Thus, the issue of nuclear inspection came to a fair solution.

All facts clearly show how just and fair is the position consistently maintained by the government of our Republic for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

With the endorsement of our nuclear safeguard accords at the current SPA, we will submit documents and materials required for nuclear inspection to the IAEA. At the same time, we will open all nuclear materials and nuclear facilities for nuclear inspection, and will sincerely fulfill our duties pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

At a time when our nuclear issue is being satisfactorily resolved by going through relevant legal procedures, no one should doubt us. Furthermore, no one should carry out such an unjust act any longer as pouring cold water over sincere efforts by judging in advance.

Since we have decided to accept the nuclear inspection, the United States should respect our independent position and sincerely fulfill its missions pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The South Korean authorities should totally open the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea and accept overall inspection on U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons.

As in the past, we will in the future, too, make active efforts to end the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula according to the independent denuclearization policy and to realize a nuclear-free, peace zone.

PRC President Yang Shangkun Arrives for Visit

SK1304045192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0355 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Comrade Yang Shangkun, the president of the PRC, arrived in Pyongyang this morning by special plane for an official goodwill visit to our country at the invitation of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK.

The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were at the Pyongyang airport with guiding cadres of the party and the state to warmly welcome Comrade Yang Shangkun when he and his entourage arrived.

Foreign diplomatic envoys in our country, personnel from the PRC embassy, and Chinese students studying in our country were on hand at the airport.

A grand ceremony to welcome Comrade Yang Shangkun was held at the airport. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Yang Shangkun waved in response to the crowd's enthusiastic welcome as they proceeded to downtown Pyongyang by car.

Comrade Yang Shangkun was warmly welcomed in the streets of Pyongyang by a crowd of 500,000 people.

Greeted by Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il

SK1304114892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China arrived here today by special plane for an official goodwill visit upon the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, greeted President Yang Shangkun and Chinese guests.

Thousands of Pyongyangites turned out to the airport with miniature flags of the two countries, bunches of flowers and welcome decorations in their hands to greet the friendly envoy of the Chinese people.

Set up at the airport were sloganboards reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song " "Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea " "Long live the great Communist Party of China " "Warm welcome to Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China" and "Long live the indestructible militant friendship and solidarity forged in blood between the Korean and Chinese peoples."

Flags of Korea and China were flying on the flag poles.

When President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il came out to the airport to greet president Yang Shangkun, the crowds burst into thunderous cheers of "hurrah."

On hand at the airport were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces; Vice-Presidents Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang and Secretary of the C.C., WPK Han Song-yong who are Politburo members of the C.C., WPK; secretary of the WPK Central Committee Choe Tae-pok, Vice-Premiers of the Administration Council Hong Song-nam, Hong Si-hak, Kim Pok-sin and Kang Hui-won who are alternate Politburo members of the C.C., WPK; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Vice-premiers of the Administration Council Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol; department directors of the C.C., the WPK, chairmen and ministers of the Administration Council, officials of central organs, and generals of the Korean People's Army.

Also present were Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi and his embassy officials, diplomatic envoys of other countries, Tian Sheng, member of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission, members of the delegation of the CPV and Chinese students studying here.

At 11:30, A.M., the plane carrying the Chinese guests touched down at the airport amid the welcome music and cheers of "hurrah."

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il firmly shook hands with President Yang Shangkun and warmly hugged him.

President Yang Shangkun was accompanied by Vice-Premier of the State Council Wu Xueqian, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Fuchang, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Xu Xin, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the C.C., the Communist Party of China Zhu Shanqing, Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Wang Wendong, Director of the General Office under President Yang Shangkun Zhao Yutian and other suite members.

A welcome function took place at the airport.

National anthems of China and Korea were played.

President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun reviewed a guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army while a 21-gun salute boomed.

Children, women workers and officials of the Chinese Embassy presented bouquets of fragrant flowers to President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun.

The crowds enthusiastically welcomed the guests, raising cheers of "Hurrah " and shouting "Welcome, friendship," "Korea-China friendship" and "Friendship, solidarity" with feelings of revolutionary fraternity and warm friendship for the Chinese people.

President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun responded to the cheers of the crowds, passing before them.

Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet

SK1304162892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1605 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today in honor of President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

When President Yang Shangkun, conducted by President Kim Il-song entered the banquet hall, the entire participants warmly welcomed them with loud applause.

Invited to the banquet were the entourage of President Yang Shangkun.

Officials of the Chinese Embassy and Tian Sheng, member of the Chinese People's Volunteers of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission, were invited. O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council Kang Hui-won, and secretary of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yong- sam, Vice-premier of the Administration Council Kim Tal-hyon and officials concerned were present there.

The banquet proceeded all along in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with feelings of revolutionary friendship.

Leaders Hold 'Comradely' Talks

OW1304171692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1651 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—Talks between President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China were held here today.

Present at the talks on our side were O Chin-u, minister of people's armed forces; Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council; Yi Cha- pang, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology; Cha Bong-ju [name as received], vice-minister of foreign affairs; and Pae Yong-jae [name as received], minister of the Korean Embassy in Beijing.

Present on the Chinese side were Vice-Premier of the State Council Wu Xueqian, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Fuchang, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Xu Xin, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of China Zhu Shanqing, Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Wang Wendong, director of the General Office under President Yang Shangkun Zhao Yutian, Chinese Ambassador E.P. to korea Zheng Yi and other suite members.

The talks proceeded in a comradely, sincere and friendly atmosphere.

Paper Hails Visit

SK1304150892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 13 Apr 92

[NODONG SINMUN 13 April editorial: "Friendly Envoy of the Fraternal Chinese People"]

[Text] At the invitation of the DPRK president, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, PRC President Comrade Yang Shangkun will arrive in Pyongyang on 13 April to pay an official goodwill visit to our country. Comrade Yang Shangkun's visit comes at a time when our people and the progressive people of the world are significantly commemorating the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's 80th birthday.

Comrade Yang Shangkun's visit this time is an expression of the fraternal Chinese people's special respect for and trust in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Also, this is a powerful demonstration of the class obligation and militant friendship forged between the parties and people of Korea and China. Our people welcome Comrade Yang Shangkun's visit enthusiastically. He will be bringing the fraternal Chinese people's affection and friendship with him.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has stated: The great friendship between the people of Korea and China, which was formed through blood ties in the flames of the arduous revolutionary struggle and which overcame all kinds of trials, cannot be destroyed in any way.

The Korean and Chinese people are close comrades-in-arms and class brothers who have long shared joys and sorrows, linking their destiny together in the arduous struggle for national liberation, class liberation, socialist revolution, and socialist construction. During the process of struggling for the joint cause, the people of the two countries of Korea and China shared joys and sorrows and closely supported and cooperated with each other. Also during this process, the solidity and invincible might of true militant friendship and class solidarity was wholly manifested.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, the Chinese people sent their fine sons and daughters to the Korean front and helped our people by giving their blood in the just struggle. This was a living example of proletarian internationalism.

Korea-China friendship with old historical roots is consolidating and developing with each passing day, not wavering in any storm. This is entirely because it is based on deep comradely trust and class obligation between the two countries' leaders [yongdoja].

The great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il-song and the great leader of the Chinese people Comrade Mao Zedong and respected Comrades Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping formed a special intimacy a long time ago, and on this basis they constantly deepened the militant friendship and class bonds between the Korean and Chinese people. During the past few years the great leader Comrade Kim il- song visited China, and Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, visited Korea. Therefore, the historically formed friendly relations between the leaders [yongdoja] of the two countries was consolidated even more, and Korea-Chinese friendship is developing at a new and higher stage.

This visit by Comrade Yang Shangkun to our country will be another new opportunity to consolidate and develop the friendship between Korea and China. Our party and the DPRK regard developing friendship and unity, and cooperative relations between the people of the two countries of Korea and China as an unchangeable firm position and policy.

As in the past, our people will continue to treasure friendship between Korea and China and will actively try to strengthen and develop it forever. The fraternal Chinese people are today achieving great successes in the struggle to construct China's unique socialism by continuing to consolidate a situation of stability and unity, and are maintaining one center and two basic points, under the correct leadership of the CPC with the respected Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core.

At the fifth session of the Seventh PRC National People's Congress which was recently held in Beijing, it summed up last year's results in all fields including political, economic, and cultural fields and unfolded a new future. By doing so, this gave greater faith and hope to the Chinese people. Currently, the Chinese people are vigorously struggling to realize tasks put forth at this meeting.

The Chinese people's great results in socialist construction and in strengthening socialist China's might show that only the socialist road will free the popular masses from exploitation and suppression so that they can become masters of the nation and their fate. The socialist road can also provide an independent and prosperous new life.

The PRC is contributing greatly to the cause of peace in Asia and the world by unswervingly maintaining and pursuing an independent and peaceful foreign policy, and its international prestige is steadily rising.

The Chinese party and government are exercising all their efforts to achieve in the 1990s peaceful reunification and its country's reunification cause based on the principle of one country, two systems. The Korean people rejoice more than anyone over the fraternal Chinese people's great achievements in building socialism, and sincerely wish them greater success in building a socialist power that is prosperous, democratic, civilized, and modern under the CPC's leadership. The Korean people are also sending whole-hearted support and solidarity in China's struggle for its reunification.

The two countries of Korea and China are neighboring countries separated by rivers and the people of the two countries are closely linked through class bonds.

The Chinese party, government, and people are always sending active support and solidarity for our people's just struggle to achieve socialist construction and for the country's independent and peaceful reunification. Our people will not forget this. Nothing can dampen the faith and will of the people of the two countries to strengthen and develop the friendship between Korea and China generation after generation.

Our people truly hope that the respected Comrade Yang Shangkun will enjoy good health and have a good time during his stay in our country during the significant April season. Friendship between the people of the two countries of Korea and China will be all the more brilliantly developed.

Kim Il-song: Japan Talks 'Progressing Smoothly'

OW1404053592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0500 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 KYODO—North Korean President Kim Il-song said Tuesday that diplomatic normalization talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang will make progress based on the 1990 Tripartite Declaration. The North Korean President made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation from Japan's Social Democratic Party led by the party's chairman, Makoto Tanabe, party officials said.

The leader of Japan's main opposition party told Kim he hopes that talks to establish full diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang will make more progress. Kim assured him that the talks are "progressing smoothly" and added that he wants to see the talks progress along the lines of the September 1990 Tripartite Declaration.

In September 1990, Tanabe and Shin Kanemaru, currently vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, joined the Korean Workers' Party in agreeing to pursue the normalization of Tokyo- Pyongyang relations. The declaration called for Japan to pay compensation for wartime and postwar damages and "losses."

The North Korean leader also said dialogue between Seoul and Pyongyang has made steady progress, responding to Tanabe's hope that the multitiered dialogue between North and South Korea will develop steadily.

In a separate meeting, a former head of Japan's Defense Agency, Yukihiko Ikeda, who is heading up a 16-member LDP delegation to Pyongyang, handed over letters to Kim from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Kanemaru, party officials said. Miyazawa in his letter asked North Korea to remove doubts surrounding its nuclear facilities in order to promote bilateral amity, sources said.

Miyazawa's letter reportedly asked North Korea to alleviate international concern surrounding its nuclear development program, though it did not ask it to accept on-site inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The letter welcomed North Korea's entry into the United Nations last fall and its recent ratification of the IAEA inspections accord.

The group of LDP lawmakers and a 120-strong delegation from the SDP are in Pyongyang to attend ceremonies Wednesday marking the North Korean leader's 80th birthday. Ikeda congratulated Kim on his birthday, and the North Korean president expressed his gratitude to Japan's ruling party for having sent such a large delegation. Kim asked Ikeda to thank Miyazawa and Kanemaru for their letters extending birthday greetings, LDP officials told reporters.

Kim's son and designated heir, Kim Chong-il, was not present at the meetings with the Japanese delegations. Kim Yong-sun, in charge of international affairs for the ruling party, was at the Tuesday morning meetings.

The North Korean president asked the LDP delegation to express his condolences to the family of Shinjiro Yamamura, chairman of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, who had been scheduled to head the LDP group but was stabbed to death early Sunday.

Gathering Celebrates 'Generalissimo' Kim Il-song

SK1304151592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1230 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Receiving news of the decision by the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the DPRK Defense Commission, and the DPRK Central People's Committee to award the title of generalissimo [taewonsu] of the DPRK to Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, filled all of the people, officers, and men of the Korean People's Army [KPA] with great joy and excitement.

A gathering of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces soldiers to warmly celebrate the election of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, as generalissimo of the DPRK was held on the spot on 13 April in the afternoon.

A statue of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, was placed at the front of the gathering. The slogans "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "Long live the glorious WPK," "Let us uphold the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song with loyalty," and "Long live the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, an ever-victorious iron-clad great commander and an outstanding military strategist" were around the site of the gathering.

Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission, and minister of the People's Armed Forces; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission, and general chief of staff of the KPA; KPA General Kim Kwang-chin; Colonel General Yi Pong-won; Col. Gen. Yi Pyong-uk; Lieutenant General Kim Ha-kyu; and Lt. Gen. Won Myong-kyun, participated in the gathering with the military officers and men of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces.

The gathering began by singing the song of General Kim Il-song. Comrade Choe Kwang made a report.

Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet for Prince Sihanouk

SK1304044092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today in honor of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, on an official goodwill visit to our country.

When President Kim Il-song, together with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, appeared in the banquet hall, the entire participants enthusiastically welcomed them with a thunderous applause.

Invited to the banquet was the entourage of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Premiers Kim Pok-sin and Chang Chol, personages concerned and Korean Ambassador E.P. to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia Kim Hyong-yol were present.

The banquet proceeded in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with friendly feelings.

Leaders Exchange Gifts

SK1304053392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was presented with a gift by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, on April 12.

Present there were members of the Supreme National Council Hun Sen, Khieu Samphan, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Hor Namhong, Dith Munty and others.

On hand were Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-premiers Kim Pok-sin and Chang Chol, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il and Korean Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia Kim Hyong-yul.

President Kim Il-song saw the gift and expressed thanks for this.

He presented a gift to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

After seeing the gift H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk expressed deep thanks.

President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and chairman of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, on the same day.

Envoy Iterates Efforts To Ease Nuclear Issue

SK1304074292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 11 Apr 92

[Text] A news conference took place on 10 April at the DPRK Embassy in the Russian Federation to comment on the fact that the Third Session of the Ninth DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] deliberated on and approved the nuclear safeguards accord signed between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Present at the news conference were officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry and reporters from various newspapers, broadcasting stations, and news agencies.

Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to the Russian Federation, spoke at the news conference. He notified the attendants that the Third Session of the Ninth DPRK SPA deliberated on and approved the nuclear safeguards accord. He said: In this way, our consistent position that we mean what we say and do not utter empty words is translated into practical action.

He summed up the DPRK Government's constant efforts to remove U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. He pointed out that the DPRK signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA on its own initiative in late January and approved it at the recent SPA session. He also said: We will receive the nuclear inspection through appropriate procedures upon reaching agreement with the IAEA.

He revealed that the United States and some other forces had been building an artificial barrier to accepting the nuclear inspection. He went on to say: While spreading false rumors that we could build nuclear weapons, they are putting unjust pressure on us. Moreover, they are even babbling that they are considering taking response measures, including the bombing of North Korean nuclear facilities, even after the IAEA's inspection. We have declared on numerous occasions that we have no nuclear weapons and have no intention, capability, or need to build them. To build nuclear weapons that would murder our fellow countrymen is unthinkable. Putting unjust pressure on us in connection with the nuclear weapons issue is an insidious act designed to pursue the political purpose of building an artificial barrier so that we cannot receive the IAEA's inspection, passing responsibility for such a failure onto us, and finding excuses for keeping the U.S. forces in South Korea.

We signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA and approved it, and the North and South of Korea adopted a nonaggression declaration. Therefore, this pressure will not work any longer, and there is no more excuse keeping the U.S. forces in South Korea. The United States must immediately stop groundlessly slandering us and sincerely fulfill its duties under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

We will open up our nuclear facilities for the inspection and sincerely fulfill our duties under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Everyone can rest assured about this.

The ambassador also answered the reporters' questions.

South Korea

Analysts Cited on Kim Il-song's Staying Power

OW1304125492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 13 Apr 92

["Kim To Keep Power Until Dying Moment, Seoul Analysts Say (by Cayman Kim)"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Seoul, April 13 KYODO—North Korean leader Kim Il-song, who turns 80 on Wednesday, is still healthy and is likely to keep his hands on the reins of power until his dying breath, government officials and analysts in Seoul believe.

He rules the isolated communist country as head of state and chairman of the ruling Korean Workers' Party, and his son and designated heir Kim Chong-il maintains day-to-day control of the party, administration, and military as a Politburo member and supreme commander of the armed forces.

The "dual power structure" will work while the elder Kim is alive, but the son will need all his father's charisma if he is to remain in power after succeeding him, Ku Pon-tai, assistant unification minister for policy, told the KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

"Kim Chong-il, who has put all the most powerful elements in North Korea under his grip, now has to muster the support of the people by dint of his father's political symbolism and his own skill at management. He needs Kim Il-song's halo more than ever before," he reasoned.

Ku said it is Kim Il-song, not his son, who shares a "personal, ideological and political connection" with the rulers of China, who still have strong leverage in North Korean domestic politics.

One member of the South Korean delegation to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks who dined with Kim Il-song in Pyongyang in February described Kim as "quite healthy for his age despite apparent lapses in memory."

"He dropped rice out of his spoon once in a while but he looked well," he said.

Few doubt that Kim Chong-il, who turned 50 about two months ago, will inherit all the titles from his father after the founder of the communist state dies.

The younger Kim surged to power in the eighth plenum of the ruling party in 1974, when he was elected a member of its Politburo. He reinforced his foothold by taking over the command of the People's Army in the 19th plenary session of the party Standing Committee in December 1991.

According to Su Chae-chin, director for North Korean studies at the state-run Institute for National Unification, Kim Chong-il has perceived the importance of economic growth to improve the lives of the people, while cautioning the administration not to stir demands for political development.

"He is oriented toward popularity-boosting strategies based on improved economic supply and exports, as we see in the north's rare free trade zone project in the Tumen River estuary," Su said.

In this context, he said, the North is assuming a pragmatic diplomatic line for cooperation with South Korea, appeasement with the United States, and normalization of relations with Japan.

The promotion on Friday of Kim Yong-sun, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, to the post of chairman reflects Pyongyang's fresh bid for rapport with Washington. He leads the North Korean side in negotiations with the United States, acting as the counterpart to Arnold Kanter, U.S. undersecretary of state.

His promotion came one day after the parliament ratified an accord to open nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, removing a great stumbling block in its pursuit for better ties with Western countries. The north notified the IAEA of its ratification the following day, much earlier than the south had expected.

South Korean analysts are still skeptical about the stability of the post-Kim Il-song era in the north.

"Kim Chong-il's open-door policy may bring about unintended impacts on the north's closed society. It will promote a high degree of social mobility and spread the capitalist spirit," Prof. Yang Song-chul of Seoul's Kyunghee University said.

Kim Chong-il's most loyal supporters include graduates of Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute, his classmates from Kim Il-song University, relatives including in-laws, and technocrats. These people occupy the key posts in the party, the administration, and the military.

They will have influence on the North Korean society for "five to 10 years to come, in view of their loyalty and management capabilities," Yang said. "But there is a possibility that they might betray their boss in case of social change," he said.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok Meets PRC Leaders

Talks With Li Peng, Qian Qichen

SK1404012192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Apr 92 p 1,11

[Text] Beijing (South Korean Press Corps)—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng called for frequent visits between South Korean and Chinese leaders to improve bilateral ties when he met with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok Monday, Seoul officials here said.

"Korea and China are neighbors but we still lack mutual understanding and therefore, we, including the leaders of the two countries, should have frequent and direct contacts," Li was quoted as saying.

Li expressed satisfaction over "rapid progress" in Seoul-Beijing relations and said the two countries could harvest good fruits if their practical relations keep growing, according to the officials.

"Running water naturally makes a ditch," the Chinese leader was quoted as saying.

He asked Yi to convey his best wishes to South Korean President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

Yi conveyed President No's message calling for improved Seoul-Beijing relations, to Premier Li, a Seoul official said.

No said the conditions for normalization of ties between the two Koreas have already become ripe and the necessity has grown, said the officials.

Li Peng is the highest-ranking Chinese official met by a South Korean official since World War II. China, a main ally of North Korea, fought against the South during the Korean War (1950-53).

Minister Yi arrived Sunday to attend the 48th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which opens Tuesday.

Yi and his Chinese counterpart, [Qian] Qichen, also met earlier in the day. They agreed to continue efforts to improve ties between South Korea and China during their 90-minute talk at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in western Beijing, the officials said.

They decided to hold two rounds of talks this September during the fourth ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Bangkok and the U.N. General Assembly session in New York if their schedules permit, they said.

The two ministers are expected to discuss the normalization issue at the talks.

Minister Yi extensively briefed Qian on recent positive developments in inter-Korean relations, the officials said. The two Koreas are moving toward reconciliation after signing a basic accord on reconciliation and nonaggression and a joint declaration for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, Yi was quoted as saying.

Yi also asked Qian to participate in enlisting international support to stop North Korea's scheme to develop nuclear weapons.

North Korea should not only submit to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency but also implement the mutual inspections of nuclear weapons sites in both Koreas, which it promised to do in the inter-Korean joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Yi said.

The Chinese foreign minister said that he hoped the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula according to the agreement between the two Koreas be realized soon, the officials said.

The Yi-Qian talks were attended by No Chae-won, Korean trade representative to Beijing, Kim Sok-u, director-general for Asian affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and other Korean government officials.

The Chinese delegates included Wang Ingfan, director-general for Asian affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Yi and Qian held two rounds of talks in New York and Seoul last year but failed to produce any substantial results to improve relations between South Korea and China.

President No met with Qian in Seoul last November when the Chinese foreign minister visited the South Korean capital to attend the third APEC ministerial conference.

YONHAP Analyzes Relations

SK1304125692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1143 GMT 13 Apr 92

[News analysis]

[Text] Beijing, April 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China virtually committed themselves to diplomatic normalization Monday.

Foreign ministers of the two countries met for the third time in seven months' time since last September, but Monday's meeting was apparently pivotal in setting the course of bilateral ties ahead.

"South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen shared the opinion that a diplomatic normalization between their countries would contribute greatly to peace and prosperity in the region and agreed to work closely together to establish ties," Kim Sok-u, director-general of the South Korean Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs Bureau, said after the meeting.

"The meeting indicates that the two countries have reached an eye-to-eye consensus. They both acquiesce the need for formal ties and they both believe that such ties are the right choices," another ministry official said.

Yi, visiting China as the first South Korean foreign minister to ever come to the communist superpower, met Qian for 90 minutes in an official session and talked for another 80 minutes over lunch.

Yi then went straight to visit Chinese Premier Li Peng in Zhongnanhai, residential and office for the core powerholders of China and closed to average citizens, for a meeting rich in symbolism.

The foreign minister took with him special greetings from his President No Tae-u, and Li delivered his greetings to No and South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

Chinese officials are known to never take action overstepping their words or intention, giving weight to the meeting.

The contact between Yi and the Chinese premier can be understood as Beijing's decision to openly seek closer ties with Seoul despite its traditional alliance with Seoul's archrival Pyongyang.

The foreign minister's meeting with the Chinese premier can be interpreted as a reciprocation. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian met privately with No when he was in

Seoul last November for the third Asia-Pacific economic cooperation (APEC) ministerial conference.

But the Beijing meeting carries much more significance—Li strongly recommended closer political ties between the two countries, saying that leaders of the two nations should frequently cross-visit to promote understanding.

Qian's and Li's reponses to the South Korean foreign minister were the most open and candid than ever before, South Korean officials say. Yi and Qian found the common basis in propelling diplomatic normalization—it would contribute greatly to peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

In short, diplomatic normalization is necessary for these reasons and therefore the two countries will need to work closely together to accomplish it.

The two foreign ministers met for the first time during the U.N. General Assembly [UNGA] last September in New York and again in November during the APEC conference in Seoul.

But this is the first time that they specifically stressed the need for diplomatic normalization, South Korean officials note.

Monday's meeting signals a new beginning to the Seoul-Beijing relations—the two foreign ministers agreed to frequently meet in the future, starting with the next APEC conference in Bangkok and the UNGA in New York, both in coming September.

PRC Central Bank Expected To Open Seoul Office

SK1304135792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0902 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—The Bank of China (BOC) is expected to open a representative office in Seoul in return for Korea Exchange Bank's opening of its office in Beijing in the first half of the year, the South Korean Finance Ministry said Monday.

The government recently gave the Chinese bank permission to open a representative office in Seoul through official channels as the two countries have reached agreement on permitting banks to open offices in both countries.

By exchanging representative offices of banks, Korea and China may promote relations in banking and financing, a ministry spokesman said.

Korea Exchange Bank plans to open a second representative office in China next year, possibly in either Shenzhen near Hong Kong or the northeastern city of Shenyang, the ministry added.

USFK Korean Employees Uneasy With Job Status

SK1104032492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Apr 92 p 3

[By staff reporter Yi Song-yol]

[Text] Many of the 18,700 Korean employees of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), most of them in their 40s and 50s, are uneasy and concerned about their future.

Over 6,000 of them have retired or been released since 1989, and this year, 1,000 more are expected to be separated from USFK, in accordance with the U.S. military budget cut and troop reduction plan.

The problem is that they may be fired at any moment without adequate severance pay.

In 1979, when withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea seemed imminent, USFK gave severance pay to all Korean Employees Union [KEU] members, and since 1980, has given severance pay, amounting to one month's salary, on an annual basis.

"Severance pay must be given when we are separated, and the severance pay given annually since 1980 was just a sum supplementing our living fees," said Kang In-sik, KEU chairman.

He said that "Since 1980, we have been calling for restoration of the graduated scale for our severance pay, which USFK rejected."

Kang said that the 1979 negotiation for a new severance pay system was made "under the circumstances that the U.S. troops would soon be pulled out from here under the Carter administration."

So on Monday, 13,100 KEU members held peaceful rallies on 18 U.S. camps across the nation, calling for severance pay equivalent to 40 months salary.

"On a cumulative scale, a Korean employee who has worked for 40 years can expect 80 months' salary as severance pay, but the present formula only provides one month's salary," Kang pointed out.

He said that the 40 months' salary severance pay is a proposal, expressing the hope that the Korean government will arbitrate the quarrel.

Kang also said that unless their demands are met in a SOFA Joint Committee meeting scheduled for early May, "We may go on strike."

A USFK spokesman, however, rejected KEU's request as "not acceptable or justified."

"USFK provides a severance pay system which was full negotiated with the KEU in 1979 and approved by the U.S. and the Korean governments as an international agreement," he said.

He said that "USFK is also a participant in the Korean national pension program, and total current annual USFK expenditure for these two programs amounts to more than $25 million."

Such disputes in the midst of a reduced budget and reduction in forces of the U.S. troops are making many Korean employees concerned about their future.

Kang said, "Half of us are in their 50s and 30 percent in their 40s, so job transition would be very difficult."

He demanded that the government and USFK be more considerate of the plight of the Korean employees.

"Gen. Louis Menetrey, USFK commander 1987-1990, once said that severance pay amounting to 12 months salary could be considered (by USFK and the Korean government), but the government doesn't seem to be interested in our fate," Kang said.

The USFK spokesman said; "We recognize some employees, especially those who are separated prior to their scheduled retirement, will face problems in switching to Korean employment.

"USFK believes the Korean government is in the best position to provide transition assistance for such USFK employees," he said.

KEU chairman Kang said that there are 2,000 to 3,000 Korean employees who are engaged in maintenance for USFK tanks, artillery, missiles and helicopters. "When they are separated, the Korean military can employ the skilled technicians, but the Defense Ministry is showing no interest," Kang charged.

By the end of this year, Washington plans to reduce the U.S. forces here by 7,000 to 36,000 in the first phase of a three-stage troop reduction program.

Over 6,000 Korean employees have been cut since 1989 and they include those who retired under the age limit of 61 or were separate by closure of U.S. military camps.

"If things go on like this, there's no hope for us, and we therefore call on the government and USFK to map out measures for our future," KEU chairman Kang said.

The spokesman for USFK, on the other hand, said that USFK "is making every effort to reduce the impact on Korean employees while staying within the budget authorized by higher authorities.

"Other critical programs have been sacrificed and separation of employees has been kept at a minimum through the use of attrition and aggressive placement efforts into other available jobs. These efforts to ensure the well-being of Korean employees are continuing," he said.

As one Korean employee put it, "One of the problems seems to be the budget. Both Seoul and Washington need to pay attention to the serious problem of the Korean employees of USFK."

U.S. Accused of Involvement in 1949 Assassination

SK1404044192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—The claim by Kim Ku's assassin Sunday that he was acting on orders from Army intelligence when he shot the independence fighter and opposition leader in 1949 has uncovered the tip of a gigantic conspiracy, researchers and Kim's grandson say.

Paek Ki-wan, a prominent dissident leader and director of the Reunification Research Institute (formerly the Institute for Study of Paekpum's Thoughts), urges an investigation to find out if President Syngman Rhee and the United States were behind the assassination, which jolted post-independence South Korea.

Kim Ku, whose pen name was Paekpum, was shot to death by Army 2nd Lt. An Tu-hui on June 26, 1949. An was arrested on the spot and held in an Army prison until June 1950, when the Korean war broke out. He was released by the Army intelligence chief and reinstated as an Army officer.

After decades of denying he had help in the assassination, An told TONG-A ILBO reporters and Kim's followers Sunday that he joined Kim's Korea Independence Party on the orders of the intelligence chief. After the assassination, the intelligence chief commended him and rendered him help many times, Ahn said.

Paek says that he had heard Kim Ku's secretary, the late Chang Chun-ha, claim there was a conspiracy behind Kim's assassination with Syngman Rhee and the United States at the center.

"Now is the time when the truth about Paekpum's assassination and about U.S. control of a divided Korea should come to light," Paek says.

Sin Yong-ha, a professor of modern Korean history at Seoul National University, says there is a great possibility that then Defense Minister Sin Song-mo and his "88 Group" were behind Kim's murder.

He said his reasoning was based on the testimony of the late Ko Chong-hun, a president of the Socialist Party, who handled U.S. Army documents during the post-liberation period of U.S. military government.

Sin said Kim Hak-kyu, chief of organization at the Korea Independence Party and the man who let An join the party, had fingered intelligence agents who were former members of Japan's Imperial Army and "impure elements" in the military as being behind the assassination.

Kim Ku's grandson, businessman Kim Chin, 43, says An's belated revelation was just the tip of an iceberg.

"Now that the case has been brought to light, it should be investigated to the fullest, to the end, to unveil the whole truth until all the people of this nation can understand," Kim said.

"I was told that grandfather used to say that a clean-up of the pro-Japanese people should be carried out to restore the national spirit and set the national order straight. I wonder if the pro-Japanese forces did it because they were scared."

Kim said he was told that his grandfather's house was always watched by officials of Syngman Rhee's government and that all of his visitors were checked.

"The police set up a camp near Paekpum's grave, in Hyochang Park. They checked visitors and traced them to their hometowns and punished them. This means that behind Paekpum's assassination were more powerful people and organizations than just the Army intelligence chief," claims Chin Chae-h[illegible], 65, who led a committee to unveil the truth of Kim's murder.

Kim played a key role in the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai before Korea's liberation from Japan in 1945, and was a political foe of President Syngman Rhee.

Students Protest Near U.S. Embassy

SK1404115492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Embassy in Seoul may comment Wednesday on An Tu-hi's claim of a possible link between the United States and his assassination of independence fighter Kim Ku in 1949, U.S. Embassy spokesman Jack Sears said Tuesday.

"We don't have any comment now. We are talking with Washington. The embassy can't give a statement when the matter involves charges against the government. If you can wait for 24 hours, we hope we can give a statement tomorrow," the counselor said when asked to comment.

Sears said the embassy began talking with Washington about An's claim on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, some 50 collegians representing universities and colleges in Seoul demonstrated near the U.S. Embassy on Sejong-no, demanding the United States reveal the whole truth about Kim's murder.

The students handed a leaflet to the embassy that urged the U.S. Government to stop meddling in Korean affairs and end political interference in South Korea.

After 43 years of insisting that he killed the national leader on his own volition, An, 75, claimed Sunday that he had acted on orders from Army Intelligence Chief Kim Chang-yong and at the suggestion of an American lieutenant colonel from the Office of Strategic Services, predecessor of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Burma

Kachin Organization Accuses PRC of Aiding Junta

BK1404024292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) yesterday accused China of assisting the Burmese military junta's attacks on Kachin rebels in Kachin state.

A KIO spokesman who declined to be named claimed that convoys of Chinese trucks, believed to be loaded with ammunition and other supplies, rumbled across the Burmese border from China's Yunnan Province to Kachin.

Quoting KIO field reports, he said that on March 29-30 Burmese porters had carried food supplies across the border from Yunnan via Nong Tau-Rweli, where 20 Chinese trucks and military trucks transported the supplies to Burmese troops in Loije.

He charged that also on March 30, five Chinese military trucks carried ammunition from Wandin via Bangsai (Kyugok) to Muse.

Ever since the supplies arrived, Burmese forces had stepped up a campaign against the rebels in Kachin said the spokesman.

The KIO had sent a letter to Peking asking whether the military support for Rangoon was central government policy or the initiative of local Chinese authorities, he said.

He alleged local Chinese officials might be involved with the Burmese military in the narcotics business, and may have delivered the military assistance because they were angered by the KIO's attempt to get rid of opium poppy fields in Kachin.

Kachin 'Insurgents' Commit Arson in Mansi, Momauk

BK1004143292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgents, who have been on the run following the offensive by the Defense Services, have been attempting to engage in subversive activities. They have been staging surprise attacks in towns and villages to cause harm to the local people who wish to live in peace.

It has been learned that the KIA insurgents committed arson in Mansi and Momauk on 8 and 9 April 1992.

At 2135 on 8 April six KIA insurgents crept into Marawadi Ward in Mansi and threw torches onto the roofs of houses and fled. The Defense Services and the local people extinguished the fire at 2245. The fire destroyed 15 houses and caused property loss worth kyat 600,000 and made 105 persons homeless.

Similarly, at 2300 on 9 April six KIA insurgents entered Alinyaung Ward and Ayetan Ward in Momauk and burned down houses and fled. The fire was extinguished by the Defense Services and the local people. The fire destroyed 37 houses and caused property loss worth kyat 740,000 and made 214 persons homeless.

The authorized authorities are carrying out necessary relief measures for the fire victims. Military columns are pursuing the terrorist insurgents.

'Insurgents' Surrender at Army Camps

BK1304082692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Apr 92

[Text] People belonging to various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different Army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 1-13 Mar 1992.

Southeast Military Command: Organizer Tin Soe from the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist organization surrendered to the Tavoy Township Law and Order Restoration Council. Private Myo Win alias Maung Me from the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered at Palaw Garrison. Pvt. Htay Win gave himself up at Mudon Township Law and Order Restoration Council. Pvts. Win Myint, Kyan Kaing, and Maung Kywet alias San Win from the NMSP [New Mon State Party] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered at Kwyethonmyayma outpost.

Eastern Military Command: Section Commander Kyaw Win and Pvt. Tin Maung from the FAPLO [expansion unknown] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered together with two M-22 automatic rifles at Linkhe Garrison. Pvt. Kyaw Sein of the 1st Battalion gave himself up at Hopong People's Police Station.

Southern Military Command: Pvt. Thein Lwin from the KNU's 3d Company, 7th Battalion, surrendered at Shwekyin Garrison.

Northeast Military Command: Corporal Chit Soe and Lance Corporal Win Hlaing from the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgent organization headquarters Laingsan Camp surrendered at Muse Garrison.

Western Military Command: Pvt. Maung Baw Oo from the KNU surrendered to the Rathedaung Township Law and Order Restoration Council.

A total of 13 terrorist insurgents surrendered between 1-13 March. These people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received at the camps by responsible officials.

Army Seizes 9 Kg of Opium From Shan Insurgents

BK1104144492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Apr 92

[Text] The Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has been fighting the threat of narcotic drugs on all fronts in the form of a national campaign. A military column under the command of the Eastern Military Command on 4 April clashed with a unit from the SUA [Shan United Army] terrorist insurgent organization near Lanhpak village in Mong Hsawk Township. These insurgents, who have been harrassing the local people, have been engaged in opium trafficking for their own interests.

Four dead SUA insurgents, one M-16 rifle, one 9-mm pistol, 49 rounds of assorted ammunition, one mine, 100 old silver coins, 740 kyat, one communications set, and 9.8 kilograms of raw opium were seized during the clash.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Congratulates Thai Premier Suchinda

BK1304101492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed today congratulated General Suchinda Khraprayun on his appointment as Thailand's new prime minister. In his congratulatory message released by the Foreign Ministry, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir expressed confidence that relations between Malaysia and Thailand would continue to grow and attain greater heights. He added he was also looking forward to working with his Thai counterpart in strengthening and expanding bilateral relations and promoting peace and prosperity in the region.

Minister Proposes Tightening Logging Concessions

BK0904125692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Logging concessions in Malaysia will only be given to companies involved in the timber industry. This is to ensure forests are managed on a long-term basis by experts. A paper on this will be submitted to the National Forestry Council for endorsement and implementation by all state governments. This was stated by the minister of primary industry, Datuk Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, in Kuala Lumpur. He said the Forest Department will use remote sensing devices to monitor excessive or illegal logging.

The minister will lead a 40-man delegation to Europe next month to tackle the anti-tropical wood campaign, especially by environmentalists or non-government organizations against Malaysia. He said the anti-Malaysian campaign is serious and efforts must be taken to give a correct picture. Among the countries he will visit are Sweden, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Britain.

Kuala Lumpur Ozone Level Beyond WHO Limits

BK1104074892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 11 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 11 (AFP)—Kuala Lumpur's ozone level is rising beyond limits considered safe by the World Health Organisation (WHO), according to university research reported here Saturday.

Azman Zainal Abidin of the Universiti Pertanian's Department of Environmental Science said air monitoring conducted by the university recorded levels as high as 116 parts per billion last month. The WHO standard is 60 parts per billion.

"Levels of ground-level ozone fluctuated between 70 and 95 parts per billion and once went as high as 116," the English-language daily, THE STAR, quoted Azman as saying.

Ozone, which which can irritate the eyes and aggravate asthma, is released by photochemical reactions caused when nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons are exposed to ultraviolet rays.

The report cited medical experts who said long-term exposure could lead to lung damage, especially in the young.

Although the levels were not alarming by local standards, which permit up to 100 parts per billion, the increase was cause for concern, Azman said.

The average daily maximum for October and November 1985 was 25 parts per billion, while last year in the same two months it was 65 parts per billion, Azman said.

He said there should be greater control over the emission of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, largely the product of burning vegetation and incomplete combustion in motor vehicles.

Singapore

ASEAN Free Trade Area 'Should Be Set Up Quickly'

BK1304145492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Wong Kan Seng, says ASEAN must now find the political will to follow through the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA]. It should be set up quickly and in more areas than had been agreed.

ASEAN heads of government, at their summit in Singapore earlier this year, had agreed on the setting up of AFTA within 15 years [words indistinct]. The aim is to keep ASEAN attractive and competitive for trade and investments. Mr. Wong said AFTA was a major political step forward and a prudent investment against an uncertain future. He was speaking at the annual general meeting luncheon of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Wong said we are entering more complicated (?trends) in international politics. [words indistinct] The end of the cold war offers opportunities and challenges, and Singapore's foreign policy must be open enough to take advantage of them. Mr. Wong stressed that it was up to the business community to ultimately follow through it and make the decision to [words indistinct] Singapore soundly.

Goh Chok Tong Congratulates Thailand's Suchinda

BK1304103892 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Mr. Goh Chok Tong yesterday congratulated General Suchinda Khraprayun on his appointment as the new prime minister of Thailand.

In a message to the former supreme commander of the Thai Armed Forces and Army commander-in-chief, the prime minister said he was confident that the close ties between the [two] countries will be strengthened further.

Mr. Goh said: "You had an impressive and distinguished career in the Royal Thai Armed Forces."

"Now that you are called upon to do a bigger job, I am confident that under your able leadership and guidance, Thailand will continue to enjoy stability and rapid economic growth."

On the relationship between the two countries, he added: "I am sure this relationship will strengthen further. There is much that Thailand and Singapore can do together."

Mr. Goh, who has met Gen. Suchinda several times, said he looked forward to their next meeting.

Cambodia

Leaders Celebrate Buddhist New Year

Son Sann Greetings

BK1304140792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 92

["Message from His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council, to the Cambodian people on the occasion of the New Year"—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved and respected clergy, excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots: In a few hours, we will greet the New Year according to our national tradition. I ardently hope that the splendid ray of peace will be shining on the Cambodian earth in the near future. And with the blessings ensuing from the gratitude that I have toward the Cambodian nation, religion, and people, I firmly believe that our compatriots will garner the good fortune that they have wished and prayed for.

In addition, I hope that poverty, hardship, famine, homelessness, and the lack of medicine will vanish from Cambodia for certain thanks to the might and charisma of the angels of this New Year. I would like to extend my respects, admiration, commendation, and gratitude to all of you, including military and civilian compatriots, students, and intellectuals who—with the sacrifice of their valuable time, materials, and lives without fear—have actively been engaged in the course of the quest for peace. Your gestures reflect your true love for the Cambodian motherland, thereby encouraging us to firmly believe that peace and happiness will, in the near future, be restored to our country, rain or shine.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express profound thanks to the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Big Five, friendly countries, and international humanitarian organizations which have displayed all-out efforts to bring about peace for Cambodia and develop the country toward progress in the future.

I pray that the triple jewels and the New Year's angels bestow the best wishes upon the Cambodian people living abroad, in the country, and in all border camps. May you be capable of defeating enemies from all directions and enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

[Signed] Son Sann, KPNLF president.

Heng Samrin Message

BK1304135992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0819 GMT 13 Apr 92

["Message from Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, [words indistinct] on the traditional New Year of the Monkey, Buddhist Era 2535;" date not given—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] Greetings to the clergy; His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]; ladies and gentlemen; and beloved compatriots.

On the occasion of the New Year of the Monkey, Buddhist Era 2535, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the State of Cambodia's Government, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD], I would like to convey best wishes and greetings to everyone.

Over the past year, the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and the KUFNCD National Council, with the full support and assistance of the people's united forces have made efforts to promote the implementation of the peace agreement and national reconciliation in Cambodia under the leadership of the beloved prince father, and solved many socio-economic problems, particularly the daily life of people in a number of provinces affected by floods. "We have saved compatriots and people who fled zones affected by war, caused by the Khmer Rouge who violated the agreement, and created favorable conditions for the repatriation of compatriot refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border. We have also solved the issue of (?social order) and negativism and maintained stability and security."

Since the Paris peace agreement in October 1991, the CPP has adopted "liberal policies acknowledging a liberal democratic regime with many parties, press and economic freedom, and market economy; strengthening privatization; and providing favorable conditions for foreign companies to invest in Cambodia." This has greatly contributed to transforming the national economy and has gradually stabilized the people's lives.

Over the past years, "responding to the people's aspiration and persistent request for genuine peace and quick end to the bloodshed among Cambodians," the CPP and the State of Cambodia Government "have increasingly, actively, and effectively implemented the policy of national reconciliation by inviting HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk to (?return home)." Since the Paris agreement, "the State of Cambodia side, in cooperation with HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the Cambodian nation, head of state, and SNC chairman, has most sincerely implemented the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and continues to restore and build the country and nation along the path of the prince father's Sangkum Reas Niyum [name of Sihanouk's former political party]."

We hope that the New Year of the Monkey will enable us to score new successes and that we will be able to achieve our duty toward the nation. In a situation in which our country is entering a new phase demanding sincerity in the implementation of the Paris agreement, "I appeal to all compatriots, ladies and gentlemen, and [words indistinct] to (?show) understanding for our difficulties." I appeal to other parties to stand on the side of the nation and be sincere to the Paris agreement in order to rebuild our fine Angkor motherland.

Once again, I would like to convey best wishes to the prince head of state and the royal consort, and royal family members; the clergy; compatriots; and Cambodian residents abroad. May they enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. Best wishes and successes to officials of the United Nations and various international organizations who are carrying out peacekeeping missions. "May the powerful and brilliant New Year of the Monkey bring genuine peace to our beloved nation and motherland."

Heng Samrin, Chea Sim Celebrate

BK1204112992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Apr 92

[Summary from poor reception] On the morning of 11 April in the precinct of the Silver Pagoda in Phnom Penh, a religious rite was solemnly and joyfully held under the chairmanship of their excellencies Heng Samrin and Chea Sim to celebrate Cambodia's New Year. Present at the ceremony were several state leaders and a great many Buddhist followers.

In an interview with our station's correspondent, an old lady expressed the wish that the New Year will bring her happiness and prosperity and that Cambodia will be at peace forever. An elderly man expressed his belief that peace will prevail in Cambodia permanently and that Buddhism will survive and prosper in his homeland since the United Nations is already in the country.

At 0730 His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the State Council, and H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, arrived at the site of the ceremony. After reviewing the guard of honor, the two leaders proceeded to pay their respects to the statue of Lord Buddha inside the Silver Pagoda.

At 0800 a religious rite to celebrate the New Year began: The two leaders and high-ranking officials built up sand hills, burned incense, and washed out statues of Lord Buddha in front of the pagoda. And then a prayer for peace was chanted. Afterward, dances by the staff of the Ministry of Information were performed in honor of their excellencies Heng Samrin and Chea Sim, who presented bouquets of flowers to the dancers at the end of the performance.

At 0900 their excellencies Heng Samrin and Chea Sim as well as other state leaders and Buddhist followers offered alms to 350 monks. The New Year celebration concluded at 1000 after the two top leaders and others returned home.

Parties To Join Defense of Maritime Territory

BK1304125392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] After attending a meeting with the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] of the four Cambodian parties last week, Colonel (Dodino), senior officer of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] naval force, said the defense of maritime territory is a vitally important issue that all the Cambodian parties should join hands to carry out. He added that despite some differences occurring at the meeting, the Cambodian parties in the MMWG had agreed in principle that they must join the UNTAC to defend Cambodia's maritime territory.

Col. (Dodino) further said that to cooperate with the UNTAC in the naval field, each party should send at least a senior officer to the meeting of the mixed navy group. He disclosed that on 20 April, 100 marines of the UNTAC naval force will arrive in Phnom Penh to set up maritime police, provide navigation training, teach ship repairing techniques, and paint UNTAC signs on ships.

The colonel pointed out that at the end of UNTAC's mandate in Cambodia, all small and large ships and equipment would become the property of Cambodia and the new government to be elected by the Cambodian people in the near future.

PRC Engineers Precede Five More UN Battalions

BK1404124692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (AFP)—An advance team of 30 Chinese engineers will arrive Thursday to arrange the arrival of a battalion of 400 due next week, the head of the UN military forces said Tuesday.

The Chinese will soon be followed by infantry battalions from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and France, all arriving before the end of April, Lieutenant General John Sanderson said.

"This will add about another 5,000 people, to push us close to 8,000" military personnel deployed in Cambodia, Sanderson said.

The Chinese engineers would be put to work on the bone-jarring road from Phnom Penh to the central city of Kompong Thom, which has been the scene of sometimes heavy fighting despite the cease-fire since January, military sources have said.

The bridge leading into Kompong Thom, which is structurally unsound, could be their first task, the sources said.

The advance group will arrive by plane to work out the logistics of landing the full battalion at the southern port of Kompong Som, Sanderson said.

Thailand has already sent an engineering battalion to repair the road from Battambang to Sisophon in order to help the return of Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand.

The Thais will continue road repairs through to Siem Reap, Sanderson said.

About 16,000 military personnel are expected in the UN peacekeeping operation, the largeest-ever planned by the world body.

Further on Akashi's Remarks on Khmer Rouge

BK1104055492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0417 GMT 11 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 11—The head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, said Thursday he would not rule out U.N. Security Council action if the Khmer Rouge do not start cooperating, according to AFP.

The radical Marxist faction has refused the United Nations free access to the zones it controls in Cambodia.

U.N. peacekeepers need to get in to survey the land for demining, demobilization, election planning and the resettlement of refugees—all part of implementing the Cambodian peace process ending the civil war.

"Our people have often been frustrated," Akashi told a press conference. "Time is running out [words indistinct] very very important and essential step they (the Khmer Rouge) have to agree to." [Words indistinct] Khmer Rouge were appearing to soften their stance, including letting U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials into selected zones for refugee resettlement inspection.

While some forces have been allowed into such showcases as the mining town of Pailin, that policy must be extended throughout the zone, Akashi said.

"If not we'll have to consider other measures and I would not exclude the possibility of reporting to the Security Council on this matter," he said, "but I hope we don't have to come that point."

He did not specify what type of action the Security Council could take.

"I kwow that the members of the Security Council are keenly watching development and we are keeping them quite well abreast," he said.

The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) began Thursday its controlled visits to Khmer Rouge territory to inspect for political prisoners and prisoners of war (POWs).

Under the peace treaty ending the war, the ICRC is responsible for supervising the release of such prisoners, and has finished its work in the other three factions zones.

The Khmer Rouge only granted permission for the ICRC and UNCHR inspections last week.

"If these visits are any indication, their (the Khmer Rouge) position is ameliorating," Akashi said.

At a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting on Monday, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan told Akashi he would not allow access until U.N. peacekeepers are deployed along the border with Vietnam to make sure no troops or supplies are crossing into Cambodia.

While the United Nations is setting up nine border checkpoints specified in the peace plan, they won't be functioning until May at the earliest.

Khieu Samphan has asked the United Nations to add two or three more checkpoints, making a total of 11 or 12, but Akashi said he was not trading his assurances for Khmer Rouge access.

"It's not a political deal or an exchange," Akashi said, adding that the two actions "have to go hand in hand."

On the military situation, Akashi said 900 Phnom Penh government troops who went in as reinforcements over the last two months in an escalation of fighting in central Kompong Thom Province have begun withdrawing.

"This is in line with our desire to firmly establish the cease-fire in that area, which has seen a number of recent battles," he said.

A separation of forces—or withdrawal to previous positions—was the main stumbling block in negotiating the end of what U.N. officials hope was Cambodia's last battle.

SRV, Phnom Penh Hide Troops in Kompong Thom

BK1404031892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Summary] Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side have staged another "troop withdrawal" farce in Kompong Thom Province.

According to reports from Kompong Thom Province, in addition to the Kompong Thom Provincial Unit and many units of the 5th Division, the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh side have kept two-thirds of the combat forces of 179th and 7th Divisions for launching activities in violation of the cease-fire accord in this province.

"Two-thirds of the combat forces of this 179th Division are kept on Kompong Thom battlefield and two-thirds of the 7th Division are kept in Kompong Thom town. Two-thirds of this 7th Division's Tank and Armored Vehicle Unit are also kept here.

"The Vietnamese chief of staff in Phnom Penh has put these 179th and 7th Divisions' combat forces under the command of the Phnom Penh side's 5th Division and a group of Vietnamese commanders in this province. In addition to this, forces from the 2d and 4th Military Regions and from Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, and Preah Vihear Provincial Units are still stationing and launching activities in Kompong Thom Province. They have not been withdrawn from Kompong Thom battlefield.

"Regarding the 9 April farce on troop withdrawal from Kompong Thom Province, the people and soldiers from 179th Division at Kompong Kdei said that the forces of the 179th Division transported by truck from Kompong Kdei back to Siem Reap Province were new recruits and inhabitants who were forced to get into the trucks for deceiving the others that troops were being withdrawn; and that the combat forces and artillery pieces were hidden in nearby areas."

The people added that the Vietnamese once staged this farce at the end of 1989. They called for implementation of Democratic Kampuchea's proposal which is in line with the Paris agreement. This proposal calls for withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops and Phnom Penh forces except for 5th Division and the Kompong Thom Unit and for the deployment of UN and four Cambodian factions' forces in Kompong Thom town, at junction of Route 12, on Route 6, and on eastern border.

Bank Governor Discusses Business Activity

BK0804030992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p B1, B12

[Report on interview with Cha Rieng, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, by THE NATION correspondent Chirawai Na Thalang; place and date not given]

[Text] Cha Rieng would like to see Cambodia develop on the model of Thailand. "I want to see Cambodia's business develop the same way as Thailand. Being Asian, we share similar geographical and agricultural context," Cha Rieng said.

The governor of the National Bank of Cambodia is firm on the analogy of common context. "How can a European people understand our problems better than our own neighbour when their business is fundamentally different?" he asked.

Cha Rieng, 65, was expansive during cocktails organized to celebrate the inauguration of Cambodia Farmers Bank. He spoke at length about the Thai-Cambodian joint venture company and various other aspects of the future of his country.

Cha Rieng was a Thai national before his home town of Koh Kong became part of Cambodia. He recapitulated those early days, speaking in chaste Thai, which bore testimony to his roots here. Cha Rieng went further in his nostalgic recollection of the past to entertain the hope that a good deal of Thai investment would make its way to his country in the near future.

Cambodia is on the path of economic restructuring and is in the process of altering its institutions to cope with the flow of foreign investment. The Cambodian government has signed contracts with 42 foreign companies investing in 49 projects; 24 of the projects are in the industrial sector, 16 in construction, 6.7 are hotels and the remaining agricultural concessions. In addition, the National Bank of Cambodia (the central bank) has given approval to 42 banking projects.

According to Cha Rieng, about ten of the companies appeared to want to revoke their plans after failing to meet governmental requirement. "It often happens that foreign companies apply for investing in projects but do not implement their plans. And that forces the central bank to revoke the investment licence".

He cited the instance of an Australian joint venture project which sought to construct a brewery plant in the country. The project began to seem dubious when the company did not proceed with its plan.

"There are also investors who buy a plot of land or a factory, and claim that the acquisition represents preparation for investment. But they leave their assets undeveloped, and do not offer proof of putting them to the use stated in the applications. This has been the case with some cigarette projects, where the investors thought it better to import cigarettes instead of manufacturing them until such a time that the government imposes tax on their import," he said.

An individual investor cannot hold any property in the country but a corporate entity can. Cha Rieng implied that this opportunity was being misused by some companies.

Cha Rieng referred to the visit last month by a team of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to the Cambodian central bank and said the team had suggested the urgent need to control the inflow and outflow of foreign currency as crucial to the health of the country's economy.

He said the Cambodian government had attributed the Riel's volatility largely to blackmarket trade in foreign exchange which, under the uncertain conditions prevailing there, had once been inevitable. The national currency of Riel now rates 32 units to the baht. Cha Rieng believes that the situation would, however, improve with the establishment of new banks.

The value of Riel has improved gradually over the past several months. A baht fetched more than 40 units of Riel last year.

Cha Rieng pointed to Thailand's assistance in fiscal discipline, and said that the central bank would adjust the banking system through advice from the Bank of Thailand.

"The Bank of Thailand will send a team of its staff to Cambodia on May 17 to advise the Cambodian central bank on measures to regulate commercial banks. They will also advise on how to develop the banks' accounting and administrative system," he said.

On the other measures being adopted by the Hun Sen government, Cha Rieng said policies had been altered to allow foreign companies to own assets and property in Cambodia. As recently as last Sunday (April 5), the government had enforced a mortgage for foreign companies to do business and allow banks to foreclose property transactions if borrowers cannot repay loans and reclaim mortgaged property.

The Cambodian government has also allowed the setting up of 100 percent foreign banks, prompting some banking joint venture partners to seek a buy-back of stake in the venture.

Cha Rieng said, in this context: "Thai Farmers Bank recently asked to buy back its 10 percent stake belonging to the central bank in the Thai Farmers Bank Phnom Penh Ltd. The Thai Farmers Bank holds 90 percent. The bank offered to buy 10 percent stake at Bt500 a share, against Bt400 at which our bank acquired shares. If we agree, we will get a profit of about Bt5 million. The central bank has not yet, however, decided on the proposal."

He said Bangkok Bank, Krung Thai Bank, Thai Farmers Bank, Siam City Bank and Thai Farmers Bank, Siam City Bank and Thai Military Bank are planning to set up joint ventures in Cambodia soon. There are two ventures now in existence—Cambodia Commercial Bank partnered by Siam Commercial Bank, and Cambodia Farmers Bank partnered by Cambodia-Thai Ltd. The central bank holds 30 percent and 10 percent stake in the two banks, respectively.

"But different conditions govern the shareholding structure in the joint venture. The one in which the central bank holds 30 percent stake will be allowed to open branches nationwide. The one in which its stake is 10 percent will be allowed to open branches in seven provinces," Cha Rieng said, in reference to the scope of the expansion of the ventures.

Dwelling on interest rates, he said the National Bank of Cambodia has set a lending rate for commercial banks at 18 percent compared with the 12 percent set by the state-run bank. The central bank might consider lifting of control on the lending rate after increasing the number of banks in the country.

Asked if the number of banks queuing up to enter Cambodia might be too many for business in the war-torn country, Cha Rieng said he had considered the issue and thought that 20 banks would be an appropriate number for Cambodia at the moment.

He believed that foreign investment was necessary for business development in Cambodia, one of the poorest countries in the world with a per capita income of US$70-85 a year.

Cambodia has not yet gathered statistics of the country's banking system. But an estimation of foreign remittances during the first three months at the two banks showed that about US$50-US$60 million had been transacted at the banks.

The government still needs a lot of foreign investment, as the country has to bear a lot of expenditure. Assistance from foreign countries accounted for 60 percent of the total present income," he said.

Cha Rieng said the central bank had a working capital this year of Riel 1.55 billion or about Bt48.43 million, US$1 million and Bt15 million. Cambodia last year had a deficit budget of Riel 3 billion.

According to Cha Rieng, the government has invested US$ 1.2 million to set up a banknote factory with machinery imported from Germany. The factory is designed to print small-sized small currency banknotes. Once the plant starts printing currency, Cha Rieng said, the central bank would adjust the rate of the currency to its real market value so that people would not have to carry a pile of money on them. Coins, he said, would not be brought into use because of the steep depreciation rates now prevailing.

The Cambodian central bank now prints its banknotes in Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Cha Rieng said the government might approach the Bank of Thailand to print higher value Cambodian currencies in the future. However, the Thai law prohibits the printing of banknotes for other countries on a subcontract basis, and Cha Rieng said in the present case the Bank of Thailand would be asked to print the Cambodian banknote for free.

Cha Rieng has been governor of the central bank for 13 years now. His salary is around 80,000 Riel or Bt2,500. (As a point of contrast, Cambodia Farmers Bank has set a minimum savings account deposit at Bt5,000.)

Cha Rieng expects to step down from his position soon. There are two deputy central bank governors, Kon Ee and Kha Yao, aged 60 and 29 years, respectively.

Indonesia

Dutch Embassy Greets World Bank-Led Donor Group

BK1004145292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0738 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr. 10 (OANA/ANTARA) - The Dutch Embassy [words indistinct] it welcomed the World Bank's decision to form a new consultative group to replace Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), the donor consortium for Indonesia.

We would give full support to the World Bank in arranging a new (?donor) group to help Indonesia, Max Gitz, the press attache at the Dutch Embassy told ANTARA.

Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin Thursday evening announced that the World Bank had agreed to form the Consultative Group for Indonesia [CGI] which it would chair as [words indistinct] the Indonesian Government.

Quoting a World Bank letter dated April 8, 1992, he said the CGI would meet in Paris on July 16 or 17.

Jakarta on March 25 announced that it stopped receiving development assistance from Holland as it was frequently used as an instrument of political intimidation.

It also demanded the dissolution of the IGGI which was led by Holland.

The 24-year-old IGGI for the 1991/92 fiscal year pledged assistance of 4.73 billion U.S. dollars to which Holland contributed only 91.3 million U.S. dollars.

Thursday, the new Dutch ambassador to Indonesia, Robert Dudley van Roijen, also told ANTARA that The Hague encouraged multilateral organizations to continue their aid to Indonesia.

He denied reports that his government would try to prevent other countries or organizations from providing assistance to Indonesia.

In reference to the disturbed Indonesia-Holland relations following the former's decision to stop Dutch aid, he said, the storm is almost over.

Sumarlin, in his statement about the CGI, did not mention about the countries or organizations to become the group's members.

He, however, stated that Indonesia regarded foreign aid as useful in ensuring continuity and improvement of its development programs.

Dutch Satisfied With Proposal

BK1404081492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0617 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] The Hague, April 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Dutch Government has expressed appreciation on the World Bank's agreement on the Indonesian proposal to establish a Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI) to replace the defunct IGGI (Inter-Govermental Group on Indonesia).

"The Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation is satisfied that the Indonesian proposal has been agreed by the World Bank", the spokesman of the Ministry of Development Cooperation, Rob Vermaas, told ANTARA here on Monday, when he was asked to comment about the World Bank's agreement on the establishment of the 'Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI)'.

"The Dutch Government supports the establishment of the new forum for Indonesia which is chaired by the World Bank", the spokesman said.

The Dutch Government's support was evident in the letters sent by Minister Pronk, the former IGGI chairman, to the IGGI member countries and financial institutions, with the appeal to support the new forum for Indonesia and to continue to provide aid to Indonesia, Rob Vermaas explained.

Asked when the letters were sent to the IGGI members, Rob Vermaas said "Soon after the letter from Jakarta rejecting Dutch aid, was received in the Hague (March 25)".

Home Minister: Equal Treatment for All Parties

BK1404074292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Speaking at the opening of the general election board management meeting in Jakarta today, Home Affairs Minister Rudini, who is also the chairman of the general election board, has reiterated that there is no favoritism in handling those guilty of electoral violations. He said that all groups participating in the general election will get the same treatment and equal privileges.

According to Minister Rudini the three political organizations that are running in the general election will also be given the same treatment and equal privileges.

[Begin Rudini recording] They are also participating in the duties of implementing the general election. In view of this they have the same status and will be given the same treatment so that they can all function together with other members that are participating in the election. The equal treatment that is given to the political organizations participating in the general election is sort of a stimulant to make them understand and exercise their rights. They will also be made to understand the requirement that the roles they play should be in accordance to the law. [end recording].

The election management board meeting for level one districts all over Indonesia will be held until 16 April and it will be followed suit by the second level districts and so on.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0608 GMT on 14 April carries a Jakarta-datelined item which adds: "The chairman of the Democratic Party of Indonesia (PDI) has called for the government to set up a special court to handle electoral violations, press reports said here Tuesday. 'Actually, the electoral court should have been formed since the first process, of voters' registration,' the MEDIA INDONESIA daily quoted PDI chairman Surjadi as saying.

"PDI is the smallest of the three Indonesian parties to run for the 400 parliamentary seats to be contested in the June 9 elections. The two others are the ruling Golkar and the Moslem-based United Development Party (PPP).

"Surjadi said an electoral court should be able to decide, on the spot, on legal actions against those found violating electoral rules, unlike 'previous elections where (violations) had not been coped with satisfactorily.'

"He has complained of previous electoral violations such as an alleged 'political census' in which authorities in certain regions distributed written forms asking people about their political affiliations.

"He said PDI was convinced violations would occur in the coming election.

"Home Affairs Minister Rudini said last week that as chairman of the general election board he would [word indistinct] a referee and try to resolve all alleged violations.

"Surjadi said the biggest problem faced by the PDI in this election was to provide enough witnesses at polling stations.

"'PDI hopes there will be volunteers to witness polls as PDI does not have witnesses in every station,' he said, adding that ideally there should be two witnesses from each party at every station."]

Minister Views Oil Prices, 23 Apr OPEC Meet

BK1304101692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0930 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 13 (OANA/ANTARA)—Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Indonesia oil's price rose a bit this month to US $17.47 per barrel from US $17.35 last month.

This surely has come to our joy as we've seen a decreasing tendency of oil prices worldwide since November of last year, he told the press, after reporting to President Suharto the latest developments on oil commodity here Monday.

He conceded that the rise of oil price was due to, among other things, psychological factor resulted from the political conflict which was besetting three member countries of the Organization of Oil Producing Countries (OPEC), namely Iran, Iraq and Libya.

But, he said, a fundamental factor that had caused the hike was the reduction of OPEC's oil production by some one million barrels per day to 23.3 million barrels per day.

Actually, with a production of 23.3 million barrels per day, has not yet complied with OPEC's agreeement last March that targeted its total production at 22.9 million barrels per day, he said. Based on a report by OPEC's secretary general, OPEC's supply has gone down and as a result the world average price of oil now is US $17.21 per barrel.

According to him, OPEC's member countries will have to decrease its level of production when Iraq and Kuwait come to its normal capacity of production, expected to be started next June or July.

He pointed out that nine oil ministers of non-OPEC member countries would take part in the OPEC meeting beginning on 23 April in Vienna, Austria.

According to him, the nine oil ministers are from Egypt, Oman, Malaysia, Russia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Angola, Yemen, and Kazakhstan.

Together with them, OPEC's oil ministers will discuss the world's current oil problem, particularly its market condition.

Other than that, OPEC on Monday begins to hold a seminar on oil and environment in Vienna, he said without disclosing how many days it will take place.

He noted that the seminar would be attended by a number of environment experts, social scientists, and representatives of oil-producing countries from all over the world.

The seminar's result will then be presented to the earth summit, due to be held in Brazil next June.

Philippines

Manglapus: U.S. Must Protect Ships in Spratlys

HK1304124792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1152 GMT 13 Apr 92

[By Rey Arquiza—italicized passage in English]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus stated that it is the United States' obligation to defend and protect Philippine ships. According to Manglapus, Philippine ships are extensions of Philippine territory, and because of this it is the United States' obligation to defend the country's ships. He said: *If the U.S. does not defend our ships, it would be violating the Mutual Defense Treaty.*

Earlier, the United States said it will not protect Philippine ships in the Spratlys because this is a disputed territory. However, Manglapus justified that under the Mutual Defense Treaty, it is the United States' obligation to protect Philippine ships if these are under attack. Manglapus issued the statement in relation to questions regarding possible attacks on Philippine ships in the event a conflict arises over the Spratlys, which is claimed by six Asian countries, including the Philippines.

UN Sanctions Supported; Libyan Envoys To Stay

HK1304124992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1150 GMT 13 Apr 92

[By Rey Arquiza—italicized passage in English]

[Text] The Philippines will not expel Libyan diplomats in the country, despite its support for the UN sanctions against Libya. This was stated today by Raul Manglapus, Department of Foreign Affairs secretary. According to Manglapus, the Philippines will invoke Article 15 of the UN Charter, which gives exemptions for countries encountering difficulties in complying with resolutions. Manglapus said the Philippines invoked the UN's Article 15 during the Gulf war, during which the UN Security Council exempted the Philippines from expelling Iraqi diplomats. In a news conference, Manglapus reiterated: *We said that we would, of course, respect the UN resolution, but in the same way we did to the United Nations' resolution against the Iraqi Government.*

Meanwhile, Manglapus said the government cannot do anything if the Filipinos in Libya do not want to go home, but added that there are government facilities there that could help them if there is a need to evacuate them out of Libya. For the first time, Manglapus admitted that there is a government, which he did not identify, that notified the government of the need to evacuate Filipino dependents in Libya before the imposition of sanctions on 15 April.

No Plans To Evacuate From Libya

HK1404103692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Apr 92

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] The government has no plan to evacuate Filipino workers in Libya. This was clarified today by President Aquino through a press statement. The president added that the Filipinos, who would be affected if the conflict between the UN Security Council and Libya worsens, have given assurances that they will stay where they are, adding that they are capable of taking care of themselves. The president said that the government measures now being implemented are the same measures it carried out during the U.S.-Iraq conflict.

Workers To File War Damage Claim Against Iraq

HK1404050692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Apr 92 p 24

[By Romy Mapile]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] yesterday disclosed that standard claim forms for individual damages against Iraq have been received from the United Nations Compensation Commission [UNCC].

The government had earlier will announced [as published] that RP [Republic of the Philippines] will file a minimum of $120 million war reparations claim against Iraq on behalf of the more than 30,000 displaced Filipino workers.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus said the initial amount does not include other claims for serious physical injuries resulting from the war and the rape of Filipino women.

The claim forms to be reproduced by the RP Claims Commission and distributed by the regional or provincial offices of the Department of Labor of Employment cover the ff [following] categories:

Form A: for departure from Iraq or Kuwait
Form B: for serious physical injury or death
Form C: for individual claims for damages up to $100,000.

According to Manglapus, the decision to file war reparations claims was reached by the government following the approval in the United Nations of the resolution to set aside 30 percent of Iraq oil revenues to pay war claims. The Geneva-based UNCC has approved three categories of damage claims resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and these are from individual victims, corporations and governments.

Secretary Manglapus said the UNCC has drafted the rules for the filing of the claims and will begin to receive the claims through the RP Secretariat at the DFA in June 1992.

Individual claimants, who were forced to evacuate Iraq and Kuwait and leave their jobs during the Gulf war are entitled to $4,000 each, while sustained damages and/or physical injuries can go as high as $100,000 Manglapus said.

"Women who have suffered abuse may be considered under this maximum rate of compensation," he said.

Filipino-owned companies and corporations who were forced to suffer losses due to the cessation of operations in Iraq and Kuwait may also file claims for reparations payments, according to Manglapus.

He said the Philippine Air Lines, a State-owned corporation, is preparing its claim though the government and is now in the process of determining the amount of its losses.

"The RP government is contemplating the amount of its claim, arising from the increased payments caused by the forced sourcing of its oil supply during the Gulf war from other countries at higher price levels," Manglapus said.

The decrease in foreign exchange earnings from Filipino workers in the Gulf had also resulted in the deterioration of RP balance of payments and the consequential [as published] inflation, Manglapus added.

The DFA explained that the payment of these claims is contingent to [as published] Iraq's agreeing with and accepting the UN Security Council resolution on the funding of Gulf War Claims.

Talks Hastened on Japanese Loan Package

HK1304055192 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 13 Apr 92 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] Negotiations for an $800-million loan package from Tokyo, part of which will be used to finance the government's uncompleted economic reform programs, are being hastened for signing before the Aquino administration bows out of office in June.

The completion of another $800 million in debt rescheduling agreement under the fourth Paris Club talks is also expected to be achieved within the next 15 days. Japan accounts for 53 percent of the $1.5-billion official debts covered under the Paris Club agreement.

Of the total loan package, $500 million represents loan and grant pledges made by Japanese officials during the consultative group meeting for the Philippines held in Hong Kong last month.

The remaining $300 million, on the other hand, will come as a complimentary financing facility for the World Bank's economic integration loan (EIL) aimed to augment the country's international reserves and fund further economic reform measures to be undertaken by the Philippine government over the next three months.

In a press briefing last Friday, Finance secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said an appraisal mission from the Japan Export-Import Bank will arrive in Manila next week to look into the $150-million energy sector loan proposal to help the government address the present acute power shortage.

The loan was to partly finance the Masinloc geothermal power plant project funded by the World Bank.

Estanislao, who came back Wednesday from a week-long trip to Tokyo, said negotiations for a $200-million commodity loan was also being facilitated to boost the government's rehabilitation program for areas damaged by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

Already, the Philippine government has submitted to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund a "shopping list" of projects under the Mt. Pinatubo rehabilitation program, Etanislao said.

The two loans were part of the total $507-million pledges made by Japan to assure the government that it would have adequate foreign financing for the transition period. The remaining $157 million is in technical grant assistance to fund studies on family planning, education and infrastructure development projects.

On the EIL co-financing facility, Estanislao said Japan Eximbank officials have agreed to send observers in the World Bank negotiations within the month.

"There has been no final decision on the proposal, but this is a sign that they will co-finance (the World Bank loan)," the finance chief said, referring to earlier statements that Japan would not agree to the proposed facility unless the World Bank talks have been completed and finalized.

Estanislao has said he was confident the multilateral lending agency would give its go-ahead to the $300-million facility following the Cabinet's approval to lift quantitative restrictions on about 200 import items.

The removal of quantitative restrictions was one of the conditionalities included in the loan proposal. The others are further trade and investment deregulations, a full foreign exchange liberalization, and the deregulation of domestic oil pricing.

The EIL was primarily intended to support the government's economic reform measures and partly as a balance of payments support in the face of debt reduction operations with foreign banks.

Japan Extends Environmental Aid Package

HK1404042792 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Apr 92 p 6

[Text] Japan yesterday extended a P356 [Philippine pesos] million grant-in-aid to the government's environmental program, including a donation of 141 garbage trucks and 16 other vehicles worth P227 million.

In simple rites at the foreign office, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus formally accepted the Japanese assistance from Japanese Ambassador Hirokazu Arai.

Aside from the garbage vehicles, the Japanese government also donated P120 million (about 598 million yen) worth of science and industrial arts equipment which will benefit 214 schools in the Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog, Western Visayas and Western Mindanao and an additional P9 million for the upgrading of the laboratory and research facilities of the Philippine Science High School [PSHS].

According to Arai, the three projects "comply fully with the Japanese government's concern for environmental programs."

"I hope they will contribute [as published] and promote further the environmental and related concerns of the Filipino people," he said.

The grants, Arai said, "comprise the last batch of Japanese assistance to the Philippines for fiscal year 1991 (which ended last month)."

Sometime in 1988, the Tokyo government donated 116 garbage trucks to the Metro Manila Authority.

Because of the numerous requests from the provincial governments for similar donations, Japan donated in 1990 another 114 compactors and open dump trucks not just for Metro Manila but also for other key cities such as Metro Cebu, Davao and Iloilo, the envoy said.

"This third round of donation for which the notes were signed will benefit Metro Manila and 27 more cities nationwide that were not included in the previous donation," Arai said.

On the PSHS grant, he expressed hope that the aid will "encourage one of the country's sources of future scientists to conduct researches that will help protect the environment."

For his part, Manglapus described the grants-in-aid as a "manifestation of the quality of Japanese support for the Philippine government's environmental and educational concerns."

He also expressed appreciation for "Japan's continued support for this country's efforts to develop science and technology."

Also present in yesterday's signing ceremonies were Foreign Undersecretary Federico Macaranas, DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] Assistant Secretary Democrito Caparas and Science and Technology Secretary Ceferino Follosco.

Foreign Banks Agree to $491 Million in New Loans

HK1404044192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Apr 92 p 17

[Arleen C. Chipongian]

[Text] Foreign commercial banks have agreed to lend $491.07 million in new loans to the Philippines as part of the new financial package to be signed before June this year, according to documents from the Central Bank [CB].

This would be above the $100 million in fresh loans earlier expected by the government although it would be lower than the $715 million in new credits under the 1990 financial package with the foreign banks.

The new loan commitment from the foreign banks is tied to the 1992 conversion bonds wherein a creditor institution is allowed to convert $4 of its existing exposure into these bonds for every $1 of new loan it agrees to lend the Philippines.

Earlier projects by the Central Bank showed that most of the banks would opt for the other debt-reduction options instead of providing new loans.

The new financial package covers $5-billion in outstanding commercial debts. So far, $4.34 billion of this had been accounted for in the various options, including debt-reduction and new loans.

The bigger turnout of participation in the new money or conversion of bonds showed that many of the country's commercial creditors are still inclined to continue doing business in the Philippines, foreign bankers based in Manila said yesterday.

However, one foreign banker stressed that the new money was tied to the conversion bond issue that allows a creditor to effectively convert $4 of its outstanding expsoure into $4 of these non-restructurable bonds.

The government is expected to close the new financial package with the foreign creditors before june this year, or before the Aquino administration bows out.

Bankers said the profile of the participation of foreign commercial banks in the new debt package was satisfactory, adding that the $4.34 billion in loans covered would help ease the country's debt burden.

Earlier, some foreign bank-creditors opted to sell their exposure in the Philippines through the debt buy-back component of the financial package.

About $1.2 billion of the country's outstanding commercial debt would be covered by the buy-back scheme and the Philippines would need close to $600 million to cancel these by buying the debt papers at a steep discount.

The government is expected to dip into its international reserves, which stood at a record $5 billion as of end-February this year, to finance the debt buy-back transaction.

The Philippines earlier expected to secure low-interest loans from such agencies as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to finance the buy-back plan.

Peruvian Situation Called Lesson for Country

HK1304050092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 13 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Fujimori Coup a Warning to Filipinos"]

[Text] The seizure of state power in Peru by its civilian president Alberto Fujimori strengthens the trend of the reversal of the democratic tide in Latin America, the fertile breeding ground of military juntas during the 1960s and 1970s. It follows the bloody military coup in Haiti in September last year against the civilian government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the country's first democratically elected president in 186 years, and the narrow survival in a military coup early this year of the government of Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, which has the longest running democracy in Latin America.

The swing of the pendulum has sent chills to reemergent or emergent democracies in Latin America, most of the which are buffeted by problems of economic transformation that seeks to reduce the role of the state, large foreign debt, and social inequality.

It does not give us comfort about the stability of our own restored democracy because we share with Latin America similar social and agrarian structures and the problem of repaying a huge foreign debt.

President Fujimori of Peru, which like the Philippines has a large foreign debt, has dissolved Congress, suspended the constitution and arrested opposition politicians and independent journalists because, as claimed by him, Congress and a corrupt judicial system have obstructed reforms intended to fight the leftwing Shining Fight guerrillas and drug trafficking.

The coup in Peru is called the "autogolpe" or a constitutional coup in which the President seizes extraordinary powers. It is a variant of the conventional military coups—called "golpe de estado"—in Latin America in which the military seizes outright state power and forms a junta. Nonetheless, the consequence is the same; Congress is dissolved, the constitution is suspended, critics are jailed and a national emergency which suspends political liberties is proclaimed.

The Peru coup is more like the takeover administered by President Marcos on the political system and his democratically elected government that enabled him to transform the system into an authoritarian regime.

As the American political scientist Samuel Huntington has pointed out in a new book, "Poverty is... the principal obstacle to economic development," adding that "the future of democracy depends on the future of economic development." Underneath the instability of the new democracies in Latin America are appalling social and economic problems arising from market reforms, which in the early stage, aggravate, rather than reduce, income inequalities. These reforms bring immediate hardships to low income groups and the poor, and the best illustration of this aggravation is the high inflation in the former Soviet Union and Poland, states which are replacing their command and centrally directed economies to market systems.

In Venezuela, for example, ending price subsidies by the state provoked food riots. In all the unstable states in Latin American, there is widespread clamor to end bureaucratic, judicial and official corruption.

In the power seizures in Latin America, Congress has stood out to be the scapegoat. President Fujimori of Peru has complained that the corrupt and insensitive Congress had blocked his free-market reforms and shackled the government's campaign against the guerrillas and drug traffickers.

There is uneasiness among the new democracies in Latin America over the reversal of the democratic trend. Following the Peru coup, President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia has warned Congress that it becomes more efficient so "it will not be necessary to eliminate it." Bolivia restored democracy in a free election in 1982, but its survival is far from assured because of social unrest flowing from its free-market policies and the involvement of politicians in drug trafficking.

The vulnerability of the Latin American democracies to authoritarian takeovers, albeit not necessarily directly by the military, should provide fair warning to Filipinos who are facing an election which could produce a presidency without a majority mandate and a congress fractured by several parties. In such an inconclusive outcome, an administration cannot govern effectively and a national paralysis could develop. Given an economy that is growing slowly, widespread poverty and the wide income disparities, a post-election political stalemate offers an invitation for a leadership that has no patience to make democracy work to use it as an excuse to reimpose authoritarianism.

Rebel Letter Causes Coup Rumors in Mindanao

HK1404023292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Apr 92 p 12

[By C. Arguillas]

[Text] The executive committee of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance] (RAM) has sent letters to junior and senior military officials in various parts of Mindanao, setting off rumors that a coup is in the offing on Black Saturday [Saturday before Easter].

"I know there is a letter circulating but that doesn't mean there will be no election," southern command chief Maj. Gen. Gumersindo Yap told the INQUIRER in Davao City.

"The RAM is not a force to reckon with," Yap said.

The INQUIRER saw a copy of the letter dated March 10 which was received by the officers in Cotabato, Davao, and other parts of Mindanao in the past two weeks.

The concluding portion of the letter said that while "we must exhaust all peaceful means to resolve all conflict and attain our aspirations, we must also be prepared and willing to use force if and when necessary. The future of our country and people demands nothing less."

"The Black Saturday coup," INQUIRER sources in Mindanao said, is reportedly part of the Oplan Noel (No Election). Rumors are spreading in northern Mindanao, site of an uprising stage by renegade colonel Alexander Noble in late 1990.

"We can see it coming soon before the election," an Army battalion commander in northern Mindanao said. A police officer in the same region told the INQUIRER "it's getting very hot. We expect it during the Holy Week, most likely Saturday. Sabado de Gloria."

"It's almost a sure thing. We can see so many indicators that the ordinary people don't see or may not be aware of," an intelligence officer in the same region said.

Another intelligence officer said "Noel will enable Cory to remain president."

"I don't know why everybody is asking naughty questions about Noel. If anything happens, there will be a graduated response. Our bottomline is, we will follow the chain of command," Northern Mindanao regional command chief Honesto Bumanlag said.

But Noble told INQUIRER in February that Noel "is not part of the RAM program." He said the possible power behind Noel is "the administration which is fighting for survival and will ensure that their programs continue."

In Zamboanga, the INQUIRER said two companies of the regional special action force were shipped to Manila on a commercial boat the past two weeks.

The INQUIRER correspondent there said the departure of the two companies was unexplained. Talks about the coup there, like in Davao are "hush hush."

In Davao City, Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] chief Nelson Estares said "the people are for election. Any action against the people's will are anti-people."

Religious Group Supports Cojuangco for President

HK1304042192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[By Veronica Uy and Juliet Labog—italicized passages published in Tagalog]

[Text] The Catholic Church hierarchy will meet to discuss the effects of Iglesia ni Cristo's [Church of Christ] [INC] endorsement of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Joseph "Erap" Estrada as presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said yesterday.

This developed as Sen. John Osmena, Cojuangco's former running mate, confirmed the INC endorsement of the Nationalist People's Coalition-Partido ng Masang Pilipino [Party of the Filipino Masses] [NPC-PMP] ticket.

But presidential candidates Ramon V. Mitra, Fidel V. Ramos, Jovito R. Salonga and Salvador H. Laurel refused to concede that they have lost the Iglesia support, said to be worth at least 1.7 million votes.

Mitra, standard-bearer of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP-Struggle of the Filipino Democrats], admitted he was seeking the INC endorsement, and said the reported Iglesia support for Cojuangco and Estrada was still "unverified."

INC officials told the INQUIRER on Saturday that the INC hierarchy, led by executive Minister Erano Manalo, decided to endorse the Cojuangco-Estrada tandem Monday last week.

"I haven't read the papers yet, but we will talk about (the INC endorsement)," Sin told reporters in an ambush interview, apparently referring to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines [CBCP].

Sin earlier indicated in an interview that Mitra was his personal choice for the next president, citing the LDP candidate's pledge to pursue a "healing presidency."

Sin had also hinted that Cojuangco had a hand in the destruction of the Catholic radio station Veritas at the height of the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] uprising in 1986.

He had likewise suggested that the Marcos associate knew in advance the assassination plot against former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, President Aquino's husband.

Cojuangco has denied the allegations.

While the Catholic Church vowed to be non-partisan in the May 11 elections, it has always made its presence felt in the country's political affairs.

In the 1986 snap presidential election, the CBCP endorsed the candidacy of Ms. Aquino, who was then running as the opposition's candidate against the former strongman. The INC endorsed Marcos.

Political observers believe that even if the CPCP will not endorse any presidential candidate, individual Church leaders will initiate moves to counter the INC endorsement.

Unlike the INC members who vote as a bloc, however, Catholics are not obliged to vote for the candidates endorsed by their Church leaders.

But the Church hierarchy's statements have a strong influence on the Catholics, observers said, citing its crucial role in the EDSA revolt.

The NPC-PMP alliance, meanwhile, held a rally at the Rizal stadium on Roxas Boulevard, attracting over 30,000 people.

Joining Cojuangco at the rally in a gesture of support was Gregorio Araneta, son-in-law of Imelda R. Marcos, who is also running for president.

In his speech, Cojuangco said he never stole a single centavo from public coffers, despite his close association with former President Marcos.

"*I come before you with a clean slate because I believe that I have never abused my fellowman and have never stolen anything from this nation's treasury,*" Cojuangco told the crowd, who also wildly cheered for Estrada, movie action stars Fernando Poe Jr. and Rudy Fernandez, and popular cagers of the Philippine Basketball Association.

An NPC spokesman, meanwhile, said the INC has vowed to mobilize one million members for the NPC miting de avance [grand rally].

The NPC miting de avance is likely to be held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle to accommodate the Iglesia members and other supporters. The site is near the INC headquarters on Tandang Sora avenue.

On the Iglesia endorsement, Mitra said: "The INC is a very powerful sect and its decision will certainly have an effect on the chances of all the candidates," he said.

Ramos, standard-bearer of Lakas-NUCD [EDSA Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats], said he was not seeking the INC endorsement. "In my case, I'm not depending on a particular religious faction or component for support."

He also said an INC spokesman told his camp that the Iglesia hierarchy has yet to announce its endorsement for the May 11 elections.

"There was a denial by an official spokesman of the INC, and that's logical because it is still too early for them to announce it now," Ramos said.

Salonga of the LP-PDP Laban Koalisyong Pambansa [Liberal Party-Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength National coalition] said the same thing. "The usual practice is for INC to announce it *as the election approaches*."

But if the report was true, Salonga said, it would only spur followers of the Koalisyong Pambansa [National Coalition] into campaigning harder for the coalition ticket.

Talks Fail on Merger Between Cojuangco, Marcos

HK1404050092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 14 apr 92 p 7

[Text] Last-ditch unification talks between the camps of Eduardo Cojuangco and Imelda Marcos have collapsed after Mrs. Marcos refused to withdraw from the presidential race.

A key figure in the Cojuangco camp said it had given up on the talks. "We have ceased all efforts to get her to withdraw.... Nasira na, eh [It has collapsed]."

Cojuangco's group had hoped Mrs. Marcos would agree to pull out in an effort to get as many votes as possible even from her supporters, on the theory that they could even be the "swing vote" in a tight race where a minority president is likely.

After getting the support of Sen. Joseph Estrada when he agreed to be Cojuangco's running mate, Cojuangco had tried to woo Mrs. Marcos' backers estimated by the source at 1.5 million.

"The value is not so much the votes but the image (of a united opposition)," the source explained. "It could be the swing margin, if only she agreed."

The Cojuangco camp sent an emissary last week to the former first lady, but she said also at a rally in Iriga City that she would not budge from running.

With seven presidential candidates, the winner could be proclaimed with less than 30% of the votes of an estimated 30 million voters.

One of the hitches in the talks was also the fact that the Cojuangco camp could not offer Mrs. Marcos any candidacy in exchange for her withdrawing from the race, because all slots in the Cojuangco-Estrada slate had been filled up.

"Alangan namang aalisin mo si [we cannot just remove] Erap," he remarked, adding that the votes for Mrs. Marcos would be wasted as she was trailing the presidential race anyway.

'Pro-People' Candidates Supported in Nueva Ecija

HK1304053892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 13 Apr 92 p 7

[By Carlos Marquez Jr.—italicized passage published in Tagalog]

[Text] Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija—Militant farmers' groups in Central Luzon said they would muster a "peasants' vote" for pro-people, pro-farmer candidates to ensure their sector's voice in the next administration.

Some 70,000 farmers in this province last week endorsed former agriculture secretary now LP-PDP-Laban [Liberal Party-Filipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] senatorial candidate Florencio "Butch" Abad. Yesterday, they endorsed Partido ng Bayan [PNB] congressional candidate Romeo Capulong.

Danilo Macapagal, secretary general of Bayan in Nueva Ecija, said the peasant vote would be gathered through a series of coordinated mass actions, including the 'Tambak Butil' (Cereal-Dumping) protest at the National Food Authority to ventilate their problems.

Macapagal said Abad and Capulong have demonstrated their pro-peasant stand. "*It is only right for farmers to show their might by voting and to take an active role in the formulation of government agricultural policies*," he said.

Capulong said he would lead the mass actions because they are part of the PNB agenda. "The whole idea of people empowerment is there to dismantle elite politics and patronage system, a subculture of dependence and subservience among Filipino peasants," he said.

Capulong noted the chronic problem of the farmers in Nueva Ecija. They are the producers of 60% of the country's total palay demand, he said, "but are cast aside by the government's inefficient marketing policy."

The farmers will picket the NFA [National Food Administration] offices nationwide to press for the pegging of at least 20% of the palay total harvest nationwide at a ceiling of P6 [Philippine pesos] per kilo.

The government could only buy an average of 4.2% of the total palay harvests because of its lean annual budget of P1 billion. The Senate committee on agriculture and food has estimated palay harvest at 10 million cavans.

"I can't understand why the government has the money for electioneering and impact projects like flyovers and why it doesn't have money for palay [rice grain] price support," Capulong said.

Capulong, the PNB national chairman, is running for congressman in the 1st district of Nueva Ecija, in alliance with the nationalist People's Coalition and the indigenous political party Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija [New Strength of Nueva Eciva] (Balane). He, however, clarified he would only support Eduardo Cojuangco "in form but not in substance." He said PNB is supporting all the nationalist candidates.

Poll Body Identifies More Election Hot Spots

HK1404024292 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 14 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Danilo P. Lucas and Alvin Tarroza]

[Text] Six more provinces, including three from the so-called Solid North would be placed under the control of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Chairman Christian Monsod said yesterday.

Being seriously considered to be placed under Comelec control are the provinces of Ilocos Sur, Cagayan, Pangasilan, Nueva Ecija, Masbate, and Batangas, Monsod said during a press briefing.

In other developments:

—Former Sorsogon governor Juan Frivaldo, who is running again for the governorship which was stripped from him because of his American citizenship, asked the Comelec to dismiss a current petition for disqualification filed against him, because, he said, he had renounced his American citizenship in 1988 when he registered as a voter and that he had sworn his oath of allegiance as a Filipino citizen on the same date that the Manila Regional Trial Court granted him naturalization on February 27 this year.

—In Mindanao, election registrars from the three provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, which had been declared as election "hot spots" by the Comelec, were directed to submit a list of voters per precinct in their respective areas to the highest commanding officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) having jurisdiction over their provinces on or before April 23.

Actually, Monsod said, "too many areas" were being suggested by candidates throughout the country to be placed under the Comelec direct supervision.

But Monsod told reporters that the possible placing under the Comelec control of the six provinces was due to the eruption of violence and the perceived occurrence of politically-related incidents.

Last week, the poll body had put 13 areas under its control to prevent the perceived [as published] eruption of hostilities and preempt the possible irregularities being hatched by unscrupulous politicians.

The areas placed under the Comelec control were Kalookan City, Malabon and Navotas in Metro Manila; Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Lanao del Sur in Mindanao and the five towns of Cavite namely Temate, General Mariano Alvarez, Bacoor, Dasmarinas and Magallanes.

Monsod, however, clarified that, as a matter of policy, the Comelec does not want to place a particular area under its direct supervision. "Unless it is absolutely necessary, we do not want to place any area under the Comelec control," he said.

The Comelec chief, however, stressed that as far as the poll body was concerned, the prominent politicians in the "Solid North" have nothing to do with the possible decision by the Comelec to put the areas under its control.

For instance, he added, Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, a congressional candidate in Cagayan, had never been linked or associated with any atrocities in the province.

Monsod also said that the Marcoses, specifically Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., who is running as vice governor in Ilocos Norte, had never been included in the charges by some candidates.

According to Monsod, reports reaching the Comelec showed that retired Colonel Rolando Abadilla, a former Constabulary intelligence chief, was sowing terror among the electorate in Ilocos Norte.

According to Monsod, reports reaching the Comelec showed that retired Colonel Rolando Abadilla, a former

constabulary intelligence chief, was sowing terror among the electorate in Ilocos Norte.

The possible placing of Cagayan under Comelec control, Monsod added, was due to the warring political clans. Intelligence community records showed that leading political clans in the province were the Puzons, Enriles, Reinas, Cortezes, Dupayas, Tuazons and Carags.

In Pangasinan, Monsod cited at least two municipalities—Urdaneta and Lingayen—where atrocities were likely to happen.

In general, he added, the gubernatorial contest in Pangasinan was very heated.

Monsod failed to elaborate why Batangas would be placed under the Comelec control. Batangas is considered the territory of the Laurels.

The first casualty when the campaign period started last February 8 took place in Ilocos Sur where a campaign manager of the Lakas ng EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats was slain.

In the same press briefing, Monsod also said that the poll body was also seriously considering the reassignment of the Pangasinan provincial commander based on reports that he was partisan to [as published] a presidential aspirant. Monsod, however, refused to identify the presidential hopeful whom the provincial commander was favoring.

Frivaldo argued that the American laws provide that citizens who take an oath of allegiance before another government immediately lose their American citizenship.

A tearful Frivaldo told the poll body: "When I took my oath before the board of election inspector, I think I had already lost my citizenship. Maybe I was wrong. I don't know.... But in my heart and in my soul I know I am a Filipino."

He pointed out that to determine whether he was still a voter, he tried to re-register during the February 1 special listing, but he was told by his election inspector that his name was still in the voter's list. He was advised, he added, not to re-register.

Comelec assistant regional director Antonio Tugbang, who attended a conference with Comelec officials and the military in Manila last week, said that Resolution 2404 directs all election registrars of the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi to instruct their board of inspectors to submit an alphabetical listing of voter's lists in their respective precincts not later than April 15.

The list will be delivered by the election registrars to the provincial supervisors not later than April 20 on which [as published] the provincial election supervisors will submit the list to the highest military officer in the province not later than April 23, Tugbang said.

The list is necessary, Tugbang said, on the ground that in previous elections a considerable number of "flying voters" were in the lists.

Aquino Rejects NPA Lent Cease-Fire Proposal

HK1004111692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino stressed today that the government will not declare a unilateral cease-fire during Holy Week. This announcement was made by the president in response to a proposal by the New People's Army [NPA] Northern Group to observe a cease-fire during Holy Week.

Energy Board Announces Reduction of Oil Prices

HK1404075492 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Italicized passage in English]

[Text] The prices of premium and regular gasoline will be reduced this evening by P1 [Philippine peso], with the prices of diesel and kerosene going down by P.30.

According to the Energy Regulatory Board, premium gasoline which used to cost P12, will now be sold at P11 per liter. Regular gasoline which used to be sold at P11.50, will now be sold at P10.50 per liter. Kerosene and diesel which used to be sold at P7.30, will now be sold P7 per liter.

Prior to this various organizations such as the 1 May Movement [KMU], the Petroleum Dealers Association [PDA], and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines [TUCP] have aired their views on what should be prices of petroleum products.

Here are the statements released by Crispin Beltran of the KMU, Amanda Cruz of the PDA, and Homer Punzalan of the TUCP.

[Begin recording] [Beltran] We are asking for P3.61 per liter, because at that time [passage indistinct] when the oil price stabilization fund [OPSF] exceeded 6 million [currency unindicated], collection for the OPSF will cease. At that time oil prices were at P.75 per liter. Added to this would be the special tax which the government collected, which should have been a reduction in August 1991. You add to this figure some P2, to come up with a figure of P3.61. *By that reduction we are expecting oil prices to come down to the level....*

[Cruz] The price reduction should have been from P12 to more or less P7. Seven pesos per liter is just about the right price.

[Punzalan] The oil price reduction would have a more positive effect if it was lowered by P2 more. [end recording]

Thailand

Embassy Security Improved After Sanctions Imposed

BK1204013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Special Branch Police have beefed up security at some embassies in Bangkok following the UN Security Council's decision to impose sanctions on Libya, Special Branch Police commander Pol Maj-Gen Yothin Matayomnan said yesterday.

He said more Special Branch police will help Metropolitan Police protect the US, UK, French and other embassies without waiting for requests from the embassies.

Security Council Resolution 731 urged Tripoli to surrender suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the 1989 downing of a French UTA aircraft over Niger.

Libya faces UN sanctions starting Wednesday.

Pol Maj-Gen Yothin said the Special Branch Police and immigration officers are keeping a close watch on foreign criminals and local gangs that may get involved in terrorism.

So far, there has been no suspicious activity among foreign criminals in Thailand, but police are ready to provide special security to any embassy upon request.

Spokesman on SRV Paper's Criticism of Suchinda

BK1404023092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 92 pp 1,3

[Text] A Thai military spokesman yesterday played down a report in a Vietnamese official newspaper criticising the prime ministerial appointment of General Suchinda Khraprayun as a "second coup d'etat".

Talking to the BANGKOK POST last night, Supreme Command's Information Department Director Lt-Gen Anuson Kritsanaserani said the criticism may reflect only an individual's thinking, and not Hanoi's disapproval of the country's new prime minister.

Lt-Gen Anuson was asked to respond to a report from Hanoi by Agence France Presse, that Vietnam has criticised the appointment of General Suchinda, describing it as a "second coup d'etat" in Monday's official NHAN DAN newspaper.

Quoting "analysts in Bangkok," NHAN DAN said Suchinda's appointment "was nothing other than a second coup d'etat aimed at reestablishing the army's domination of political life in Thailand.

Gen Suchinda, the strongman of the military junta that ousted the government of General Chatchai Chunhawan of February 23, 1990, was named premier on April 7.

"General Suchinda was not elected by the people," NHAN DAN said, adding that his ascension to the post "did not take place without difficulties."

The daily noted that the Thai Army's takeover was criticised by the United States, "which stopped aid to Bangkok following the coup" last year.

NHAN DAN, however, acknowledged that Thailand still achieved an 8.1 percent economic growth rate last year, "one of the highest in the world," and added that some forecasters expect the growth rate to be even higher this year.

"The Suchinda era has just started and Thais expect their new premier to realise the wish that he himself has expressed—that Thailand be prosperous," the newspaper said.

The Vietnamese official newspaper's statement came as a surprise at a [time] when bilateral Vietnamese-Thai relations have significantly improved.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet became the first Vietnamese prime minister in 14 years to visit Thailand when he made a three-day visit to the Kingdom as part of his three-nation "friendship" tour to the region late last October.

His official visit to Bangkok was followed by that to Vietnam of then Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun early in January.

Gen Suchinda also visited Vietnam early this year to foster bilateral ties, but he has also been openly critical of Vietnam.

Before Mr Kiet's visit to Thailand last year, Gen Suchinda openly accused the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok of meddling "beyond necessity" with Vietnamese refugees in Thailand.

Vietnam has also been frequently referred to as an "external threat" to Thailand's security by Thai military leaders, including Gen Suchinda.

Lt-Gen Anuson said that he did not believe the view taken in the newspaper was intended to send a signal of Hanoi's disapproval of Gen Suchinda's appointment, nor would it have any impact on bilateral relations.

As frequently happened with Thai Army radio's broadcasts, Lt-Gen Anuson said, the article may not necessarily reflect the official view.

"Not all of the Army's commentaries go through an official screening process and broadcast articles sometimes represent only the author's views.

"This could be the same in the NHAN DAN case," said Lt-Gen Anuson.

Since Gen Suchinda visited Vietnam in January this year, trade and diplomatic relations between Thailand and Vietnamese have improved.

The appointement of Gen Suchinda has also been widely accepted in the world community.

Since Gen Suchinda's official appointment, he has been congratulated by ambassadors from 39 countries, Lt-Gen Anuson said.

He added that he did not think the article caused any damage.

The Armed Forces will not initiate any action, but will leave it to the Foreign Ministry to consider whether to pursue the issue after the new Government is formed," he said.

'Hotly-Contested' Cabinet Posts Not Yet Filled

BK1404021492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] The five coalition parties have agreed on how to share Cabinet portfolios and their remaining task is to decide who should fill certain hotly-contested positions, informed sources said yesterday.

According to the latest agreement among the five parties, which is subject to possible changes, three party leaders ruled "unusually rich" by the Assets Examination Committee will be nominated for Cabinet positions.

The parties' final Cabinet list is expected to be sent to Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun today or tomorrow, after which the new premier will finalize the Cabinet line-up.

Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit will be nominated deputy prime minister, while Chat Thai Party deputy leaders Sanoh Thienthong and Watthana Atsawahem will be named PM's Office minister and deputy interior minister, respectively, according to the parties' tentative agreement on the "unusually rich".

The accord gives Samakkhi Tham, the biggest political party, 15 portfolios, including the key economic posts of agriculture, commerce and industry. The Chat Thai Party is given 14 portfolios, including control over the communications, foreign affairs and education ministries.

Social Action, after having reportedly agreed to "take a low profile" due to pending corruption charges against party leader Montri, will control the public health and science ministries.

Following is the possible Cabinet line-up according to the latest agreement:

—Six deputy prime minister portfolios: Gen Athit Kamlang-ek (Samakkhi Tham; Pancha Kesonthong (Chat Thai); Montri Phongphanit (Social Action); Samak Suntharawet (Prachakon Thai); Michai Ruchuphan (Suchinda's choice); ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Praphan Thupatemiya (Suchinda's choice).

—Defence: Minister Suchinda Khraprayun; Deputy Minister Gen Chatchom Kanlong (Suchinda's choice).

—Interior: Minister ACM Anan Kalintha (Suchinda's choice); Deputy Minister Pol Lt Gen Wirot Pao-in (Suchinda's choice); Deputy Minister Wathana Atsawahem (Chat Thai); the other deputy minister will likely be handpicked by Suchinda.

—Finance: Minister Suthi Singsaneh (Suchinda's choice); Deputy Minister Narong Srisa-an (Suchinda's choice); Deputy Minister Suchat Tancharoen (Samakkhi Tham).

—Communications: Minister Sombun Rahong (Chat Thai); three deputy ministers will likely be selected from Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Social Action.

—Agriculture: Minister Narong Wongwan (Samakkhi Tham); three deputy ministers will likely be selected from Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Prachakon Thai.

—Commerce: Minister Phinit Chantarasurin (Samakkhi Tham); Deputy Minister Pridiyathon Thewakun (Suchinda's choice); two other deputy ministers will likely be selected from Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai.

—Industry: Minister Somphong Amonwiwat (Samakkhi Tham); two deputy ministers will likely be selected from Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai.

—Education: Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha (Chat Thai); Chaipak Siriwat (Ratsadon); two other deputy ministers will likely be selected from Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham.

—Public Health: Minister Prayut Siripanit (Social Action); two deputy ministers will likely be selected from Social Action and Samakkhi Tham.

—Foreign Affairs: Minister Kon Thappharangsi (Chat Thai); one deputy minister will likely be selected from Chat Thai.

—Science, Technology and Energy: Minister Bunphan Kaewattana (Social Action).

—Justice: Minister Det Bunlong (Chat Thai).

—University Affairs: Minister Anuwat Watthanapongsiri (Samakkhi Tham).

—PM's Office: Thiti Nakhonthap (Samakkhi Tham); Santi Chaiwaratana (Samakkhi Tham); Pongphon Adireksan (Chat Thai); Sanoh Thienthong (Chat Thai); Phiyanat Watcharopon (Social Action); either Tinnaphan Nakata or Wiraphon Ramangkun will likely be handpicked by Suchinda; the other PM's Office minister will likely be selected from Samakkhi Tham.

Cabinet Post Jockeying May Delay Nominations

BK1404014692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Apr 92 p A1, A2

[Text] The tug-of-war for Cabinet posts by the five coalition partners resurfaced yesterday, creating doubt that Prime

Minister Suchinda Khraprayun would be able to unveil the list of ministers next Thursday as scheduled.

There was reported to be intense jockeying for nomination to the few Cabinet positions not yet decided, but most party leaders said they would try to resolve their differences by Wednesday. There were also reports of arguing over posts which were supposedly settled.

If the Cabinet is not announced by Thursday, informed sources said, it would mean that caretaker premier Anan Panyarachun would have to welcome UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, who is scheduled to arrive here on April 21 on a Southeast Asia tour, which includes a trip to Cambodia.

"This could be Premier Anan's last job in office if that is the case," one source said.

Samakkhi Tham Party secretary general Thiti Nakheornthap last night told THE NATION he would try to finalize the list of his party's nominees before Wednesday so the Cabinet could be announced on schedule.

He also described as "ridiculous" reports that he was jockeying for a Cabinet post.

"The question is not whether I would be nominated but whether I would decide to be nominated because, as secretary general, I have the purview over making suitable nominations. If anybody argued that I am not an elected MP, then I would like to ask who was responsible for the victories of 79 MPs," he said.

Thiti said he had not made up his mind whether he would take a Cabinet post or not." I depends on whether I think I can make a contribution to the national interest in a political job," he said.

Thiti said that a group of about 50 MPs handed him a letter urging him to take up a political post.

It was earlier reported that Thiti could be nominated to the post of PM's Office minister in charge of the Budget bureau. Asked whether he thought the post was crucial in serving the country, he said it was very important, but added he might refuse it in favour of a more qualified MP. Thiti was also tipped to be a deputy prime minister.

Another senior Samakkhi Tham source, who did not want to be identified, described as "still inconclusive" a reported agreement that Gen Athit Kamlang-ek would be nominated as a deputy prime minister.

However, he confirmed that Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan, deputy-leaders Somphong Amonwitwat and Phinit Chantharasurin, and Dr Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri are in line for top ministerial posts.

The source said there was still dissension within the party over Narong's decision to swap the industry portfolio for the commerce post with the Social Action Party during negotiations on Friday night. A group backing Sompong was reported to be very unhappy at the swap as they want Sompong to be nominated as industry minister.

Sompong's supporters said that Narong should not have ceded the crucial industry post for the less important commerce post at the expense of the prestige of the party, which is the largest with 79 MPs.

But Samakkhi Tham members who backed the tentative agreement said the Commerce Ministry was more important because it involved the country's exports.

Meanwhile, negotiations over whether politicians ruled "unusually rich" by the Assets Investigation Committee should join the Cabinet was also inconclusive, the source said.

Other informed sources said that outgoing Deputy Prime Minister, Michai Ruchuphan was likely to be nominated as a deputy prime minister under the premier's quota. Meechai is on a long holiday in the country and could not be reached for comment last night.

The sources also said that Dr Thinnaphan Nakhata is also certain to be a prime ministerial nominee for PM's Office minister. Another source said that outgoing Deputy Finance minister Dr Wiraphong Ramankun also has a good chance of being renamed to the post.

He said that Wiraphong should be the top choice, and if the premier is able to appoint only one PM's Office minister Tinnaphan should be chairman of the premier's advisory board.

Other reliable sources said that outgoing Deputy Commerce Minister M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun was also strongly tipped to become deputy commerce minister under Suchinda's quota.

For the Interior Ministry, one source said that apart from Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalintha and Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Wirot Pao-in who would be nominated interior and deputy interior minister respectively, another "non-elected outsider" could also be appointed as the second deputy interior minister.

Otherwise, Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai would be each given one deputy interior minister post.

Negotiations to finalize the Samakkhi Tham Party's list of Cabinet nominees continued yesterday at Narong's home. Those involved in the talks included a group of senior Samakkhi Tham MPs who are in line for Cabinet posts. Among them were Sompong, Chaiyaphum MP Santi Chaiwiratana, deputy party secretary general Wirakon Khamprakoi (Nokhon Sawan), Chawalit Osathanukhro (Khon Kaen), Suphot Tangtrakhrothai (Petchabun), Ruangvit Lik (Kamphaeng Phet), and Aphichat Halamchiak (Kalasin). There was no word on the outcome of the talks.

If Narong has been able to pacify Sompong's supporters, then the party's key nominees are expected to be Narong as agriculture minister, Sompong as commerce minister, Phinit Chantharasurin as science, technology and energy minister, and Dr Anuwat Watanaphongsiri as university affairs minister.

The Chat Thai Party, which appeared yesterday to have finalized its list of key nominees, also became involved in another round of jockeying for positions, particularly for the post of deputy prime minister and justice mdinister.

Chat Thai last Friday nominated Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan as deputy premier, Niphon Wisityunthasat as justice minister, Pongphon Adireksan as foreign minister, party leader ACM Sombun Rahong as communications minister, secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha as education minister, and Kon Thappharangsi as PM's office minister in charge of the Tourism Organization of Thailand.

But a senior Chat Thai source said yesterday the nominations for deputy prime minister and justice minister were still far from being finalized because many candidates were bucking for the posts. He did not name the candidates, but other sources said that former House speaker Pancha Kesonthong and Det Bunlong, the treasurer of the Rachakhru clan, are among the hopefuls.

Deputy party leader Sano Thianthong, meanwhile, confided to a source that he was so busy lobbying for other people that he himself was now unsure of being given a Cabinet post.

Sombun, meanwhile, has been lobbying for deputy party leader Watthana Atsawahem to be nominated as deputy interior minister.

But sources close to the prime minister said that the politicians ruled unusually rich by the Assets Examination Committee might opt out if not dropped by Suchinda in his final deliberations. Sano and Watthana are among them. The other is Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit.

Apparently, the list of SAP nominees is yet to be finalized. The key SAP people in line for six Cabinet posts are Montri, newly-appointed secretary general Bunphan Khaeowatthana, deputy leader Prayut Siriphanit, Piyanat Watcharaphon, Somsak Thepsuthin and Suwit Khunkitti. The latter two would be given deputy ministerial posts.

One SAP source said that Montri, who has been tipped to become deputy premier, yesterday seemed interested in the industry portfolio, giving Bunphan the chance of becoming deputy prime minister. Prayut and Piyanat were reportedly tipped for the post of public health minister or PM's office minister.

A source close to the premier, however, commented that it was unlikely that the premier would approve Montri's nomination to the industry post. "The latest I have heard is that he would probably be nominated as deputy prime minister," said one source who asked not to be identified.

The source said that the party's negotiations were still unfinished. The talks were linked to the settlement of the uproar within Samakkhi Tham over the swapping of the industry post for commerce.

Article Calls for Boycott of Government

BK1104014792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 92 p A8

[Article by Withit Muntabhon, associate professor of law at Chulalongkon University and special reporter to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva: "Between Cordiality and Amorality"]

[Text] Ambassadors are usually a band of men and women well-versed in diplomacy. In the customary realm of courtesy, they may even have to shake hands and rub shoulders (or cheeks) with dictators. Chilling though that may seem to democratic aspirants, such conduct is to be understood in the context of international relations. However, behind that facade of cordiality, how are those faces of the international community to tackle the amoral whims or immoral schemes of dictators?

The first element of note is to encourage them to empathise with the members of the population who are seeking to cast off shackles of tyranny. Scrutinise those ways and means by which tyrants seek to obscure their tyranny, particularly those subtle (or not-so-subtle) methods for stealing democracy from the people. International solidarity counts.

In this Never-Never land, please note that there have been over twenty coups d'etat and fifteen Constitutions (most of which have been overturned by coups). Dictators have learnt their lesson well, so well that nowadays they prefer to opt for "constitutional coups" rather than armed conflicts.

What's it all about, Alfie? (Hums the song) The political tune has been played so as to legitimise last year's armed coup by the fait accompli of a "constitutional coup" this year.

Remember February 23, 1991 when we were having our pasta and enjoying a Spaghetti Western, the revolvers nearly clicked on the runway; there was then no room for those elected politicians to run away.

Remember the so-called constitutional process that came into play after that runaway abduction. Yes, they did set up a civilian administration thereafter, but in terms of legitimacy, it was but a shadow-play. The puppetry was played even more in the subsequent drafting of the national Constitutional whereby their trusted friends were often at play inserting nicety-and-trickery in the Constitution.

What? An unelected Senate appointed by the puppet master as a "coup de theatre", as part and parcel of the Constitution. What? A Senate with the power to destabilise the Cabinet because it has voting rights on certain forms of legislation and in the no confidence motion to drive out the Government. What? A constitutional provision which allows for an unelected prime minister. And another provision which makes the unelected president of the Senate (rather then the elected speaker of the Lower House) the president of Parliament. Quo Vadis?

And now, alas, another coup. The latest took place on April 7 when a certain General who had staged the 1991 armed coup was instrumental in shaping another coup by using loopholes in the Constitution. This time, a quiet coup, but as insidious as always: the General was nominated by five political parties closely aligned to him, capitalising upon the constitutional anomaly which permits an unelected appointee.

Precisely because the political parties were fragmented and had their own crisis with the debunking of a certain civilian candidate with an aromatic whiff, five of those parties which enjoyed the highest number of votes as a coalition turned to an unelected outsider as the candidate for premiership. But it turned out to be the irony of ironies: it was to be the General who had staged the 1991 armed coup.

What "constitutional coup"? Or was it more of an "institutionalised coup"? The appointment of one of the original coups-makers of yesteryears as the current prime minister, fully unelected and ruefully confected. The ultimate straw with a bitter medicine?

What is the international community to do in the face of such mala fides?

First, consider the boycott. The shadow-play master is waiting for international recognition. That should be prevented. The minimum yardstick is not to invite him abroad to cast an ever darker and pervasive shadow.

Second, restrict the development aid and assistance. This has already been done to some extent during the past year on condition that his land reverts to "democracy". The message is that we are not nearly half-way to full-fledged democracy, especially if it is the original coup-maker who is premier. If aid is to be given, try and give it directly to the people and the non-governmental sector. If you have to deal with the government at large, consider well those partners which are cleaner and more accountable to the people. It would be a travesty of good faith such aid were to help consolidate the power base of puppetry.

Third, raise the question of dictatorial amorality in your foreign policy planning and cross refer to the human rights situation in this allegedly Freeland. A most gross violation of human rights principles took place last year with that coup; the breach of the people's right to self-democracy. The current situation, despite the apparition of an election, is, in effect, a continuation of the power base of despots. What further proof do you need than that irony of ironies already mentioned?

Fourth, raise the issue in international dialogues and forums. The perpetuation of the dictatorial regime by stealth, and by the semblance of a national Constitution and election, calls for international support to impugn and reprimand the tantrums of dictators. Use it as an indicator when you discuss your approach towards this land. Why not analyse the issue in your regional groupings and most importantly in the United Nations? Yes, even in the Security Council, General Assembly, and relevant bodies? If not directly in the Chamber, at least in the whispering corridors. And why not then institute a merchanism at the international level to monitor the situation in this country and indicate with internationally acknowledged democratic principles? If not through your smiles, at least through your deeds.

No, this cannot be interpreted as interference in the internal affairs of a country. When a basic human rights norm such as the right to self determination has been violated, you cannot classify that as a merely internal matter. It is a matter of international concern, demanding international solidarity and reaction.

And there is more to it than that. The trappings of despotism have other impacts on those other rights which are of primary importance. A key issue at present is freedom of expression and information. While there is some liberality in the printed press, it is all too obvious that authoritarian tentacles are stifling objective reports on television and radio. They simply block any coverage of opinions which diverge from the authoritarian norm. The people are thus prevented from having access to the variety of information necessary to form a balanced judgement.

Who was it who said that this land is the land of smiles? If that is also an ambassadorial trait even in times of commotion, the least we should do is to avoid collusion with the penumbra of dictatorship. When your heart is truly with the people, your action will no doubt add integrity and sincerity to the underlying maximum that "an ambassador is he who lies abroad for his country."

Pro-Democracy Leaders Call for Sanctions

BK1204023292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Apr 92 p A2

[By Nopphon Wong-ana]

[Text] The pro-democracy movement led by academics called on the international community to impose economic sanctions on the government of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, charging that he ascended to the top executive post through the February coup last year.

Campaign for Popular Democracy spokesman Withit Muntraphon urged international leaders not to invite Suchinda to their countries and to stop financial aid to the next government.

He added that the military officers who seized power last year want funds only to spend on arms.

Withit was speaking during a political symposium entitled "An unelected Prime Minister; the crisis in Thai politics" held at Thammasat University yesterday.

He also called on Thai people to unit and to show their clear stand that they do not want an outsider to be premier.

Phalang Tham Party MP Charat Phuachuai, who was also at the discussion sarcastically congratulated Suchinda for being appointed prime minister after having twice stolen democracy from the people.

He was referring to the Feb 23 coup engineered by Suchinda and to his acceptance of the premiership despite the fact that he had publicly repeated that he would not take the post.

Charas said Phalang Tham MPs would dress in black when they attend the Parliamentary meeting on April 16 to mourn the death of democracy.

New Aspiration Party deputy leader Wira Musikphong said he will soon propose to his party's executive board that it urge party MPs to resign from their positions, reasoning that the number of MPs in the opposition camp was not enough to amend some points in the constitution.

He said he will also ask other opposition parties to consider his idea.

There are only 165 votes in the opposition camp and it requires 315 votes from the upper and lower houses to amend the Constitution.

Wira predicted that the Suchinda administration would be unstable due to the fact that it is unacceptable to the public and that some politicians accused of being unusually wealthy are likely to join the Cabinet.

Wira noted that Suchinda's resignation from the armed forces was a political party ply to lure the former army chief to fall into a political abyss.

Under the leadership of Suchinda, Wira said people's basic human rights would be violated as the government would bar the media from reporting the legitimate activities of those who opposed the government.

He said the government-controlled TV and radio stations had never reported former MP Chalat Worachat's hunger strike against Suchinda's appointment.

In response to a recent remark of Suchinda's wife, Wannee, that those who disagreed with her husband's appointment could go and live in other countries, Wira said he would continue to be in this country to oppose the government as this nation does not belong to a specific person.

Duang Prathip Foundation committee member Sompong Patpui told the audience that a group of Khlong Toei slum people who recently presented a bouquet to congratulate Suchinda's appointment was only a small number of people hired to do so. He insisted that most slum people disagreed with Suchinda's appointment.

He said the people's basic human rights had been violated after last year's coup.

The military, for example, had forcibly evicted some slum people from their homes before the World Bank/IMF meeting last year, fearing that they would embarrass the international delegates.

He said, the present political situation was quite similar to that of the Thanom Kittikhachon administration prior to the 1973 student uprising.

State enterprises executive committee member Piyachet Khlaeokhlat said the March 22 general election has shown clearly the people want democracy while the National Peacekeeping Council still wants to cling to power.

Early Challenges for Suchinda Government Viewed

BK1204033492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 92 p 4

["Weekend Analysis" by Banyat Thatsaniyawet]

[Text] In addition to opposition to an unelected prime minister from outside Parliament, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun is now getting a glimpse of challenges from his coalition parties even before he has completed forming the new government, and it seems he has few avenues for retaliation.

The clear challenge came when Social Action [SAP] leader Montri Pongphanit did away with Lt-Gen Khasem Kraisan, a close friend of Gen Suchinda, from the post of party secretary-general and replaced him with Mr Montri, last Friday.

The action was taken without any sign of care for Gen Suchinda who has been publicly supportive of Lt-Gen Khasem, sent to keep a controlling hand on the SAP.

All this from a man who is yet to be appointed deputy prime minister in Gen Suchinda's government.

Lt-Gen Khasem nearly did not make it as MP for Ayutthaya Constituency 2 after Mr Montri was ruled by the Assets Examination Committee as suspected of being "unusually wealthy."

Now Mr Montri has apparently seen the political picture and found that Gen Suchinda is now in a tight political corner and cannot retaliate when his friend was unceremoniously ejected from the post of SAP secretary-general.

Mr Montri must realise that though he has been accused of amassing 300 million baht in assets, the SAP has 31 MPs and is a key factor in the coalition were it to switch allegiance to the opposition bloc.

New aspiration Party secretary general Phisan Munlasatsathon has been trying to establish a bridge between their two parties.

Gen Suchinda, who has announced that he is now fully a civilian, is starting to learn that standing in the political spotlight is very different from being in the Armed Forces and directing politics from behind.

The fearsome image of a political director with weapons in hand is no longer there.

Though Gen Suchinda still enjoys the advantage over other party leaders of having the Armed Forces fully supporting him with 270 senators waiting to turn left or right according to his order, this will not help protect him from all the dangers that are waiting to befall his government.

Not the least of his problems is that none of the five coalition parties really belong to him.

Each coalition partner would feel like Mr Montri. They support Gen Suchinda because they want to be in the Government and have bargaining power. Whenever they choose to withdraw their support, the Government will be brought down. Only Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai have less leeway because they can be subjected to orders from the Air Force.

Gen Suchinda had previously hit out at the former elected government for buying votes to get into office, using their power for the benefit of their group, and unusually wealthy politicians who should not be allowed ever to take office again. But now these same charges cannot be shaken from his own new government.

Pleasing politicians will not be something as easy as an army officer used to having his every order followed to the letter. There are a lot of political irritants everywhere. With the formation of the government just starting, conflict has already set in.

Senior Samakkhi Tham MP for Lampang Buntheng Thongsawasdi already showed dissatisfaction that his party got less important portfolios despite being the largest party.

He also complained that the formation is being handled by only a few individuals without consultation with the party administrative committee.

Mr Buntheng must also be disappointed that he is reportedly not getting a post in the Cabinet while Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, who joined Samakkhi Tham at the last minute, is to get the Deputy Prime Minister post.

Mr Buntheng, who engineered a rebellion which brought down a Prem Tinsulanon government, warned that if Gen Suchinda's government is to fall apart it would not be the doing of the Opposition but would be the doing of the coalition parties themselves.

Being the oldest MP in the House, his voice is a bit shaky and may not seem a frightening threat. But everyone knows that the veteran politician is a bag of political tricks and has shaken many a government in the past.

Samakkhi Tham, being composed of MPs coming from every other party after the coup d'etat, is in a condition that is ready to break up at any time if the benefits are not shared out to all.

At this stage, northern MPs under party leader Narong Wongwan are already frustrated that party secretary-general Sqn Ldr Thiti Nakhonthap, who did not run in the election, is demanding a cabinet seat with the support of northern MPs.

This is in spite of his public annoncement before the elections that he would not accept any political posts after the election.

Under the new Constitution, Parliament has two sessions a year, or six months in session. That is a very long and dangerous time for a government that has a majority of only 15 seats in the House.

Out of this about 40 MPs will be ministers and would be preoccupied with official duties. Already it is expected that the government will have to inject a lot of money to keep their MPs in line.

This would be particularly so when the House debates important bills. The three Armed Forces and the 270 senators will not able to help the government if it loses a key bill in the House of Representatives.

Another inauspicious sign for the government is that many outsiders who asked to be ministers of key economic portfolios such as the Finance Ministry, be it Mr Suthi Singhasane or Dr Ramangkun, were reluctant to join.

They have played key roles in forming the policies of the Anan Panyarachun government and may expect that businessmen and merchants will lobby this government to change what has been laid down.

The most important of these is the 7 percent value added tax. Gen Suchinda had also previously said that this may be lowered to 5 percent.

In the next budget bill the Finance Minister, if he is to have a balanced budget, would be very hard-pressed to come up with a good reason to refuse the multi-billion baht projects for the Air Force to buy new weapon systems, such as 40 AMX jet fighters worth 17 billion baht or six Chinook helicopters worth 5,600 million baht.

Can it be possible for the projects of Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, who is now also Supreme Commander, to be denied by Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun's government?

Chinese Dailies on Suchinda as Prime Minister

BK1004135192

[Editorial Report] Two Bangkok Chinese-language dailies, XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO and ZHONG HUA RIBAO, on 8 and 9 April respectively carry a column and an editorial on the appointment of General Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister.

XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO on 8 April carries a 500-word column by He Yun on page 1, titled: "Suchinda Finally Appointed Prime Minister." The column says General Suchinda has finally accepted the prime minister post although his appointment could not be considered within people's expectations. "Everyone was relieved after the appointment was announced yesterday afternoon as Thailand's politics had finally broken through the deadlock."

The columnist says General Suchinda's rise to power has received international support. There is also much support for him in Thailand. However, there is also some opposition such as that coming from some students and politicians. They do not think General Suchinda is unsuitable for the post, but realize his selection is not in line with the democratic system. They wonder why Thailand had to spend a lot of money for the election if the prime minister can be a non-elected person. This is the reasoning of the opposition.

However, "most people in business circles welcome his appointment. They think he is the person most suitable for the post. His rise to power at least can bring political stability to Thailand. The students and people who are still opposed to his appointment will probably have to accept this accomplished fact."

ZHONG HUA RIBAO's 9 April 900-word editorial on page 5, titled "Suchinda's Appointment as Prime Minister Will Benefit the Country's Political Stability and Economic Development," says that according to the Constitution the prime minister can be a person nominated by political parties. The support from the members of the House of Representatives also means the support of the majority of the people. General Suchinda has received unanimous support from the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai, and Ratsadon Parties.

The editorial further says that "most people and businessmen welcome the appointment of General Suchinda as prime minister because they think that with his appointment the country will be politically stable. General Suchinda has just resigned from military service. He has close ties with the military. He has also gained the support of 195 MPs in the House of Representatives representing five political parties—30 more than in the opposition bloc. A total of 153 senators or about 57 percent of the 270 senators appointed under the Constitution, are military officers." Political stability will benefit economic development. If the Cabinet can bring in experts to oversee financial and economic tasks, we will be fully optimistic about future economic development.

Concluding, the editorial says: "We believe that if experts and people who have enjoyed public trust are appointed to look after financial and economic affairs, the country's economy will continue to develop fully in the second half of this year."

Newspapers Comment on Appointment of Suchinda

BK1004135992

[Editorial Report] The 9 and 10 April issues of Bangkok, Thailand vernacular papers—NAEO NA, BAN MUANG, THAI RAT, and SIAM RAT—carry editorials on the royal appointment of General Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister.

On 9 April NAEO NA carries a 900-word editorial on page 4 titled: "Let Us Cooperate and Work Together." It says the royal appointment of General Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister should put an end to all controversy over who should or should not be prime minister, and whether the post should be reserved only for the people's elected representatives. It says: "From this moment on, everyone and every party should cooperate and work together for the benefit of the country based on the principles of the democratic system laid down in the Constitution."

The four-party opposition bloc, too, has a very important responsibility. As Gen. Suchinda himself put it: "With a strong opposition made up of politicians endowed with knowledge and capability in politics, the government will have to be very cautious in the steps it takes in order to ensure a smooth administration of service to the general public; otherwise, it could be toppled within a short time." Gen. Suchinda has also said he does not mind students who protest against a non-elected premier because the students, too, are doing their duty of making their wishes known. Gen Suchinda says what he is afraid of is "opposition by political parties both inside and outside Parliament." That means not playing by the rules.

The paper concludes that the three major issues demanded by the opposition parties and students—that is, that the prime minister be elected, that the House speaker be president of the assembly, and that senators hold less power—are provisions written into the Constitution. Changes to it can be made through amendment of the Constitution by parliamentarians. Thus, opposition to the appointment of an outsider as prime minister should be channelled to the Parliament.

On 9 April BAN MUANG carries a 600-word editorial on page 5 titled: "A Good Premier Depends on His Cabinet." It says the appointment of Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister, with the support of an alliance of parties led by the largest party, is acceptable under the Constitution, which allows an outsider to be named prime minister. The survival of the government led by Gen. Suchinda will depend on how it handles administration of the government. If Suchinda manages to prove that his team is capable, the opposition to "a non-elected prime minister" will die down. The prime minister will win public support if his administration can solve national problems, create stability, and give happiness to the people.

BAN MUANG concludes: "The most urgent task of the new prime minister now is formation of a good team of Cabinet ministers, which should be made up of persons who can command the respect and confidence of the general public."

On 10 April SIAM RAT carries a 900-word editorial on page 3 titled: "Welcome to the (New) Prime Minister." It says Gen. Suchinda should have taken the office a year ago after he staged the coup in February 1991. Then he would not have had to bother with protests and demonstrations, as he does now. His willingness to become prime minister now is truly a sacrifice because, as he himself realizes, from now on he will be a target of opposition and criticism. Anyway, Gen. Suchinda has stated boldly that he will stand up to it.

"We have got a prime minister, but not a Cabinet yet. Still we must wait for a policy statement from the government. We have seen the new prime minister and know about his intention to work. But we have not yet seen his work. We are waiting to see what his Cabinet will look like, what his administrative policy will be, and finally how he will perform. Until then we will not refrain from making judgments about the government on behalf of the people," the paper says in conclusion.

THAI RAT's 10 April, 800-word editorial on page 3, titled: "A Decisive Factor Is the Economy," says Suchinda's survival depends on his handling of the economy. The opinion of the Thai people is divided on his appointment. Nevertheless, bankers and stock traders welcome his appointment, believing it will improve the economy and shore up confidence in the stock markets. They believe Suchinda will continue to do the economic and planning work left undone by the Anan Panyarachun government. They are relieved that there will be no economic sanctions from foreign countries.

Their opinions are even enhanced by Suchinda's pledge that his team of economic ministers will be made up only of professionals. The paper then speculates that previous Finance Minister Dr. Suthi Singsane will continue as finance minister with his deputy, Dr. Wiraphong Ramangkun, renamed as deputy finance minister. The editorial suggests: "Should Anan Panyarachun be invited as adviser to the prime minister or a member of screening committees, this would be an advantage to the new government in terms of its image in the eyes of foreign countries."

The 10 April issue of NAEO NA carries an 800-word editorial on page 4, titled: "Government Stability." It says that although no better choice could be found for the premiership than Gen. Suchinda, who holds a strong base of support in the military, the majority controlled by his government in the House of Representatives is rather slim, with only 195 votes over 163 in the opposition bloc. There is a high risk of his government being toppled over major bills in the Parliament. "Now the people are waiting to see how his government is formed. That will be the people's first chance to judge his performance. In order to help him earn the confidence of the people, politicians in the five-party alliance should be ready to sacrifice. Those who were declared unusually rich and had their assets seized, particularly, should show spirit by not accepting Cabinet posts, at least not until they have been cleared by the courts. This will greatly shore up the image of Gen. Suchinda's government," NAEO NA says.

On 10 April MATICHON carries an 800-word editorial on page 8 titled: "Think of Others' Feelings." It expresses disgust at the staged show of support for the new prime minister. It says this reflects the inferiority complex of the losers who want to give credit and justification to the person they support. The massive show of support, congratulations, and parties held for celebrations "gave us an impression that they are celebrating the victory of the military over the politicians." MATICHON warns that the leader himself as well as his backers should not lose their heads and become obsessed with power. It says: "Gen. Suchinda's ascension to the premiership has raised questions among people who are disappointed with politics in Thailand. Those people now wonder why the election was held." In conclusion, the paper says the most important task now for Gen. Suchinda is restoring the confidence and trust of the people. This can be achieved through his "performance," and not by "brokers."

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Congratulates New Thai Premier

BK1304155192 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—Chairman of the Council of Minsters Vo Van Kiet yesterday covgratulated Mr. Suchinda Khraprayun on his nomination as prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

In his congratulatory message, the Vietnamese leader wished for the further development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand in the interests of the two countries, and for peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Daily Views Appointment

BK1404052092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 92

[From the press review for 13 April]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries on page four an article entitled "Thailand and Its 19th Prime Minister" by author Phuong Ha. The article says:

Although General Suchinda did not run in the recent election, the new constitution of Thailand allows the appointment of a prime minister who is not a member of parliament.

However, the appointment of Mr. Suchinda provoked different reactions. The military circles declared full backing for the appointment and the pro-military faction voiced its support for and belief that the new government would be a stable one. The New Aspiration, Democrat, Palang Dharma, and Solidarity Parties issued a joint statement saying that the appointment of Suchinda was contrary to the democratic process and demanding that he withdraw. Meanwhile, outside public opinion paid more attention to the signals from the White House.

The United States stopped aid to Bangkok following the coup d'etat that took place in Thailand in February 1991. Mr. Bush also wrote to Mr. Anan demanding that a general election be held at an early date. At that time, Gen. Suchinda declared that the United States was not the biggest boss in the world and could not compel us to do whatever it wanted. Until now, the United States still has not pledged to resume aid to Thailand.

Economic experts expressed a desire that the Suchinda government would persist in Mr. Anan's policies of reform so as not to harm the country and break the confidence of the world community.

The Suchinda era is just beginning. The people of Thailand are waiting for their new prime minister to fulfill the wish he expressed recently—to make Thailand prosperous and a gateway to investment and trade in Southeast Asia.

Australia To Provide $76 Million Development Aid

BK1304104692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi, April 13 (AFP)—Australia will give Vietnam direct aid worth 100 million dollars (76 million U.S.) over four years, the Australian Embassy in Hanoi said Monday.

Treasury Minister John Dawkins and Industry, Technology, and Trade Minister John Button informed Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet of the aid, the first Australia has ever granted Vietnam, earlier Monday, the embassy said.

It will be spent mainly on training, education, health, and water supply projects and also on buying goods, the embassy added.

During the current fiscal year which ends in June, Australia will provide fertilizer and chemical products for anti-malaria medicines worth three million dollars (2.25 million U.S.) plus English teaching and management training assistance.

The two Australian ministers, who arrived in Hanoi on Saturday, were due to leave for Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam on Tuesday.

Premier Receives Australian Ministers

BK1304152792 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here this morning Australian Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce John Button and Treasurer John Dawkins, who are on a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism.

Also present at the reception were Le Van Triet, minister of commerce and tourism, and Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Potts.

Speaking on this occasion Mr. John Button said that the Australian Government attached great importance to the development of cooperation with Vietnamn and he announced an Australian Government aid program with Vietnam in the 1992-95 fiscal years to contribute to its development.

Mr. Button recalled that in recent years the Australian Government had assisted Vietnam in posts and telecommunications services, oil and natural gas industry, coal mining and other fields.

He expressed his hope that in the coming years the Vietnamese-Australian cooperation will be expanded in conformity with the interests of the two countries.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the first high-level delegation of Australia to visit Vietnam amd exchange views on possiblilites for broadening the immediate and long-term cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Kiet highly appreciated the effective assistance of the Australian Government and people to Vietnam, particularly their resumption of aid in late 1991, and the present substantial aid program to Vietnam for national reconstruction. These are of great significance to the strengthening of the existing friendship between the two countries, Chairman Kiet stressed.

He held that development of cooperation between the two countries at present and in the future is in conformity with the aspiration and potentials of Vietnam, Australia and other countries in the region.

He also expressed his hope that Vietnam and Australia would make further efforts to develop and divesify their effective cooperation on the basis of mutual trust and understanding, respect for each other and mutual benefit.

UN Operation in Cambodia Faces Funding Problems

BK0904133092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] In another development, UN peacekeeping forces are confronting many problems in exercising their duties in Cambodia, particularly financial constraint from UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] operation, an unprecedented effort in history of this whole body. In this connection, here is our radio comment:

The UN peacekeeping operation in Cambodia includes cease-fire supervision, repatriation of refugees, removal of unexploded bombs and mines, and many other jobs at the total cost of U.S. $1.9 billion. The United States is to pay 30 percent of the financial burden, that means U.S. $660 million in this $2 billion undertaking.

However, Washington said it cannot fulfill this financial obligation due to a host of problems. U.S. President George Bush has been under public fire for paying too much attention to external affairs while neglecting domestic ones. Fifteen percent of total cost for UN peacekeepers in Cambodia falls on Russia. Beset with numerous difficulties, this republic is very unlikely to fulfill their duty. And UN statistics show that so far, none of the five members of the UN Security Council, namely the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China have fulfilled their financial contribution to UNTAC. With insufficient money comes from UNTAC [as heard], the UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia are certain to slow down with a negative impact on the schedule for the coming general election. It is necessary to recall that just one year ago the United States and its Western allies did not hesitate to pour tens of billions U.S. dollars into the flames of the Gulf War.

First Foreign Bank Licensed To Do Business

BK1004164692 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—A Banque Indosuez has become the first foreign bank to have got a licence here today to open a branch office and start doing business in Vietnam.

This was made known at a press conference today during which governor general of the Vietnam State Bank Cao Sy Kiem and head of Indosuez branch office in Vietnam Yves Pamis told reporters that Banque Indosuez has so far put money in 28 investment projects in Vietnam, mainly in tourism, air services, telecommunications and energy. The bank has also had trade ties with Vietnam and helped it in personnel training. In the time to come the bank will join in some more investment programs.

Communist Party Delegation Leaves for India

BK1304151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) led by Truong My Hoa, secretary of the CPV Central Committee, has left Hanoi for India to attend the 79th Congress of the India National Congress Party (I).

On this occasion the CPV Central Committee has sent a message of greetings to the All-India Committee of the Congress Party-I (AICC- I).

The message praised the Indian party's substantial contributions to the Indian people's victories in their persistent struggle for national independence and solidarity and unity.

The message wished the Indian party more, greater achievements in the implementation of its noble targets.

International Copyright Official Makes Visit

BK1404064692 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—Mr. Ang Kwee Tiang, head of the Asia-Pacific office of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC), has been here to exchange views on the draft law on Vietnamese copyright at the invitation of the Vietnam Copyright Office.

While here, he was received by Vu Khac Lien, vice-minister of culture, information and sports.

Assembly To Vote on Draft Constitution Today

BK1404065092 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—The draft Constitution will be passed to vote at the National Assembly today.

Discussion of the draft took more than three weeks, from March 25—the second day of the current sitting—to last Saturday.

On Monday the deputies devoted most of their time to hearings by members of the Council of Ministers on issues over which opinions are still divided. They heard Finance Minister Hoang Quy on the budget and related matters, State Planning Committee Chairman Do Quoc Sam on the 500 kv trans-Vietnam power line, State Bank Governor - General Cao Si Kiem on the availability of cash and government intervention in the gold and dollar market, and State Pricing Committee Chairman Phan Van Tiem on reasons to raise electricity price and measures to cope with possible consequences.

The whole evening meeting was taken up by discussion of bills on National Assembly organisation and National Assembly elections, which also await endorsement today.

Communist Party Crackdown on Media Viewed

BK1304164692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 92 p A3

[By Kawi Chongkhitthawon]

[Text] Hanoi, Vietnam—The Vietnamese Communist Party has tightened control of the print media after blaming them for leaking confidential government information and exploiting sex and crime stories.

The Central Committe's Secretariat has introduced a tough new guideline to strengthen the party's control of the press including daily and weekly publications.

While praising the print media's role in contributing to social and development in the past years, the party stressed that "the press has so many shortcomings and weaknessness including the commission of serious mistakes."

According to the army daily, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, the party criticized the press for depicting only the negative aspects of society without paying enough attention to the so-called "encouraging new factors in daily life."

The dissatisfaction went deeper because the party said some newspaper published articles that "even revealed the state's internal matters." It did not elaborate.

Some Vietnamese journalists said the party has complained that the local press had disclosed certain agricultural statistics, which in the party's view are considered confidential. Vietnam is a major rice exporter and its annual production is a well-guarded secret.

There are at least 160 newspapers and magazines throughout the country with a joint circulation of several million copies. Almost all of them are state-owned or run by public organizations.

The years following the sixth party congress, which liberalized tight state controls on the media, witnessed a flood of new and colourful weekly tabloids and newspapers come on to the market. Most of them publish stories on romance, sex and crime.

The party also hit out hard at publishers who marketed books, newspaper and weekly papers that portrayed "sexual-seductive, murders, and stories with superstitious content," which in the party's view, run counter to the nation's fine cultural tradition.

For years, to survive the high operational costs of publishing, Vietnamese publications have been competing for higher circulation with spicy stories accompanied by four-colour spreads, sometimes with scantily-clad young women, to attract readers.

The outcome, the party said, is the over-commercialization of the print media in Vietnam.

The Central Committee's Secretariat has also urged authorities on all levels to assess the print media in their localities in order to improve their quality.

"The press and other publications, run by the party or state or mass organizations, will be controlled by the party and their activities must be in accordance with the relevant laws," the army daily said.

From now on, all the vernacular publications are required to contribute to the maintenance of the Marxism and Leninism outlook as well as the promotion of the thoughts of Ho Chi Minh.

The party's guideline said these references to the ideological leaders were important to "encourage the whole party and people to overcome every difficulty in implementing the party's resolution adopted at the seventh party congress."

At the moment, only a few theoretical journals such as HOE TAP still concentrate on the studies of Marxism and Leninism.

The party has given June as the deadline for the complete reorganization of the print media in the country.

The new guideline included the compulsory reduction of magazines put out by similar organizations. For example, Vietnam's security organization both in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh have their own publications apart from another magazine published by the national security organization.

Publishers and editors-in-chief are not allowed to be in charge of printing houses, according to the guideline which also calls for the training of potential journalists and publishers for the year 2000.

The new regulation preventing editors in getting involved in printing houses came after reports of the existence of several unusually rich middlemen. They were responsible for the publication boom which depended on sex and crime stories for boosting circulation.

The expose was published in the YOUTH WEEKLY REVIEW which said that these middlemen, who put together materials such magazines, made a fortune. "For each magazine, the middlemen will make at least 5 million dongs (about US$500)," the review said.

Party Directive on Press, Publications

BK1204145192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 92

[Report on "31 March directive issued by party Central Committee Secretariat to intensify leadership and management of agencies concerned to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the press and publications"]

[Text] The Party Secretariat's directive begins by asserting that during the renovation period, the press in our country has made definite progress. The press includes newspapers, broadcasts, and pictorials which have provided fast, substantial, and diverse information in a multilateral manner to meet the party's political orientations. It has disseminated the lines and policies of the party and the state and, at the same time, reflected the legitimate aspirations and constructive ideas of the people.

The press has introduced positive factors, asserted renovation achievements and the chosen socialist path, opposed the phenomena of negativism, corruption, smuggling, and suppressive behavior toward the people; criticized erroneous viewpoints; protested hostile arguments; and also published books to partly meet the multisided requirements of spiritual life, thus contributing to the clarification and propaganda of socialist theories and renovation lines, and to the raising of the people's intellectual standards. It has paid more attention to the various subjects serving political and social research, and to the publication of scientific, technical, and economic management books.

Most of the press and publication agencies have overcome widespread subsidization to adopt the cost-accounting system and have strived to keep in touch with readers and improve both format and content. They have got more printing facilities and have scored quick technical progress.

The party secretariat directive also pointed out clearly that there are still many shortcomings—some serious and prolonged ones—and weaknesses in the press and publication. The newspapers and radio broadcasts still emphatically criticize the negative aspects and have not properly propagated the new factors. Many articles on new factors are still shallow and lack persuasiveness. Some reports in newspapers and broadcasts, particularly concerning antinegativism, are still inaccurate and imprudent. False reports have not been rectified. Militancy in the struggle to defend socialism has not been properly emphasized. In providing information, sometimes we have lost our vigilance and disclosed secrets. Many newspapers and broadcasts at the central level have not reflected the common issues of the entire country while local newspapers remain qualitatively poor and their circulation is too limited.

Book publication is also weak. Many agencies have not been permitted to organize their own specialized publication to print and sell books. A small number of books of noxious content have circulated and are circulating. Poor quality articles, photos, and books have been printed inconsiderately to excite unhealthy tastes and likings. The managerial control of printing facilities is still loose. The publication of books and newspapers is still weak. Particularly, not too many books and newspapers have been sent to mountainous regions and the countryside. The system of censorship is weakening.

Dear friends: The Secretariat directives assert that the above-mentioned situation was caused by slackening leadership and managerial control of central functional agencies, many party committee echelons in the administation, and management agencies of the press and publishing houses. At the same time, some editors in chief of newspapers and broadcasting stations and directors of publishing and printing houses are also directly responsible for this situation.

With a view to scrupulously implementing the basic viewpoints of the seventh party congress on press and publication tasks, and to enhance the quality of the press and publication operations in the coming future, the Secretariat directive requests all sectors, party committees, and those in charge of the press and publication tasks to assess the situation of the press in their localities; clearly point out shortcomings and deficiencies, and causes thereof; and set forth specific measures to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the press and publication. They must remedy errors and re-establish order and discipline in this domain.

The guidelines for the press and publication operations that should be firmly grasped are that all newspapers must be placed under the party leadership and must operate in accordance with the law.

All news reports must be carried out in a prompt, accurate, diversified fashion, thus ensuring the people's right to information. However, efforts must be made to ensure state secrecy, screen out decadent culture, and so forth. This is aimed at helping maintain political stability, accelerating the renovation undertaking, extricating the nation from the current socioeconomic crisis, and firmly adhering to the socialist orientation. Efforts must also be made to criticize erroneous concepts, heighten vigilance, and oppose the wicked schemes and tactics of the hostile forces.

The party Central Committee Secretariat has charged the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department with the task of coordinating with sectors and echelons concerned to supervise press and publication agencies to formulate and implement plans and policies on printing newspapers and books in accordance with stipulations mentioned in the Seventh CPV Congress document and other important documents of the party and state issued after the congress.

The directive proposes that the Council of Ministers soon promulgate legal documents on press and publication activities, formulate a guiding document on implementation of the press law, and complete the law on publication for submission to the National Assembly.

The directive clearly specifies that editors in chief of newspapers and directors of publishing houses who take direct responsibility for their agencies must acquire a good political and cultural background and essential professional skills. They must not carry out tasks in an arbitrary and careless manner.

Regarding the reorganization of press and publication activities, the directive specifies that by the end of June, echelons of party committees and cadres of responsible agencies must complete this task through enhancing quality in the political, ideological, and cultural domains. A number of unqualified newspapers and publishing houses which produced useless and duplicated materials must be reorganized. No efforts should be made to publish more newspapers or publications, unless conditions allow it. It is not necessary that all sectors and localities have their own newspapers and printing houses. Efforts should be made to reduce the number of newspapers published by the public security sector. Reports and articles on criminal cases should be reduced dramatically while writing style should be revised to avoid adverse effects. The press and publication system of the party and state management agencies should be revised in terms of organization and content to set a good example for other sectors.

Regarding the financial domain, the directive clearly points out that the press and publication sector should implement the cost-accounting system to effectively use its capital, thereby satisfactorily serving the political, cultural, and ideological objectives; consistently enhancing its quality; and striving to become financially self-reliant. The state should formulate an appropriate financial policy especially for political and scientific publications, create favorable conditions for the press and publication sector to advance further, build more material-technical bases for transmitting radio and television programs to localities throughout the country, and ensure that party and central level newspapers are consistently distributed to all localities. The state should also formulate a policy to encourage the production of simple radio receivers for sale at a low price to the people to enable them to tune in for government broadcasting programs.

The directive also calls for efforts to formulate plans to train newsmen and publication cadres up to the year 2000 to ensure that they have a firm political and ideological background, good morals, and professional skills. Attention should be paid to training and forging editors in chief of newspapers and radio stations as well as directors of publishing houses to make sure they have firm political backgrounds, good professional skills, and competence in their jobs. Management cadres should not simultaneously work as editors in chief or directors of publishing houses. An editor in chief should work for one newspaper only. Efforts should be made to perfect the party and state guiding agencies for press and publication activities.

The directive also calls for functional agencies to perfect and promulgate guiding documents for implementation of the press and publication laws. Guidance should be closely provided for the issuance of licenses for operating newspapers or publishing houses while efforts should be made to inspect implementation of these licenses, quickly define activities of publishing houses, and formulate regulations for small printing establishments.

Regarding circulation, the directive points out that coordination should be made between the state-run circulation network and that of the privately run one so as to quickly and consistently distribute newspapers and books to people in remote areas and ethnic minority regions. Each party chapter should have at least one copy of NHAN DAN newspaper and a copy of the local party committee's newspaper.

Concerning the export-import of newspapers and publications, efforts should be made to correctly implement the current regulations on this regard and to collect low fees for newspapers and publications contained in the same package.

The directive finally says that in the new situation the press and publication activities are very important. As a result, echelons of party committees, leaders of mass organizations, and cadres of sectors and functional agencies must base themselves on the contents of this directive to inspect supervisory work for the press and publication sector, make concrete and prompt decisions to perfect organization, strengthen discipline, maintain order, and enhance the quality of press and publication activities.

Ba Ria-Vung Tau Holds First Party Congress

BK1004081592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] A Vietnam radio station correspondent in Ba Ria-Vung Tau reported that the first Ba Ria-Vung Tau party congress listened to reports by the delegates, confirming achievements, potentials, capacity, and difficulties of the province. The congress also agreed on the orientations and tasks of the province for the period 1992-1995. The province's economic structure in the following years is the combination of industry, service, and agriculture. At the same time, the province will strive to implement the people's democratic rights.

At the congress, the delegates affirmed that the party building work has a decisive meaning in the revolutionary undertaking, specially with a newly-established party committee of Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province. The congress elected in one round 43 comrades to the first Ba Ria-Vung Tau executive party committee.

Directive Forms New Township in Ha Tinh Province

BK1004103392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers has issued a directive establishing Hong Bi Township in Ha Tinh Province.

The township has two subwards, namely Bac Hong and Nam Hong, and the four villages of Dong Lien, Than Ngoc, Duc Thuan, and Trung Luong. It has a population of nearly 30,000 people and an area of 5.8 square kilometers. The Hong Bi Township is surrounded by the three districts of Nghi Xuan, Duc Tho, and Tam Lap. It is an important economic center of Ha Tinh and a road junction to Road 8A to Laos and the ports of Cua Lo and Xuan Hai.

On 2 April the township held a ceremony to commemorate becoming a new administrative unit of the province.

Conference Held to Review Party Building in 1991

BK1304135392 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Mar 92, P 1

[Report by "TL" on a speech by Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, at the conference on party building work in Ho Chi Minh City on 20 March]

[Text] On the morning of 20 March, the organization committee of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee held a conference to review party building work in 1991. Attending the conference were deputy secretaries of standing committees and chiefs of the organization committees of district, precinct and higher than grass-roots level party committees. Comrade Phan Van Hung, member of the standing committee and chief of the organization committee of the city party committee presided over the conference.

In performing its 1991 party building work, the city party committee focused mainly on providing guidance for the organization of first- and second-round party congresses at all three levels and achieved the goals of consolidating the various party committee echelons and raising the party members' standards of political and ideological knowledge. As yet, 50 of 59 district, precinct and higher than grass-roots level party committees, and 1,043 of 2,253 party bases have completely held their second-round congresses. Along with organizing the party congresses at three levels, party bases have implemented the city party committee's Resolution 11 on the consolidation of party bases. Thus far, 70 percent of basic party organizations have completely implemented Resolution 11 and 37,000 party members, 60 percent, of the city party organization have been subject to examination and classification. The qualifications of some 4.84 percent of party members must be verified, including 1.15 percent of them have been expelled from party membership. In 1991, some 1,297 new party members were recruited or 66 percent of the number of recruits in 1990. This figure includes 114 alternate members whose names were crossed off the list. The remaining problems in the tasks of organizing and building the party in 1991 are: Cadre planning task has not been satisfactorily performed; the placement of cadres and the arrangement of the machinery have not promptly matched the renovation requirements; party bases have not been consolidated sufficiently; the review of party tasks in various types of party bases has been delayed, and the recruitment of new party members is still confused. The organization committees of various party committees from the city down to basic levels are still weak both in terms of competence and experience and cadre, and have not met the demands of party committee echelons. The guidelines for organizing the party building work in the coming years are to purify the ranks of party members, enhance party leadership, and implement plans for training cadres who are competent, politically good and loyal to the party cause. Attention should be focused on training key cadres, consolidating party bases, and improving step by step the party's organization task.

The 1992 program for the party's organization task is to focus on assisting party committees in completing the organization of second-round congresses of basic party organizations; implement Resolution 11 of the city party committee; reorganize each of the various types of party bases, mainly hamlets, villages and economic units; perfect the echelons of various party organizations above the basic levels; continually implement the cadre planning task; conduct refresher training for various cadres; reexamine the contingent of cadres; replace and assign more cadres to various levels; and perfect the organization committee of the city party committee.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the city party committee, specified: The party building work in the present situation requires us to overcome red tape, the bureaucratization of party leadership, the alienation of the party from the masses, and the failure of party base members to firmly grasp the situation of the masses around them. Concerning the classification of party members in keeping with Resolution 11, some 70 percent of party members have been found to meet qualifications. Yet, we still have to continually implement the resolution to see how many of the 70 percent have already committed mistakes and have not been detected, and how many have lost their vanguardism and are no better than the ordinary active people. Cadre tasks must be well planned.

Ho Chi Minh City Export-Import Values Increase

BK0904070992 Hanoi VNA in English 0634 GMT 9 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—Ho Chi Minh City's export value in the first quarter of this year reached 81,914,000 U.S. dollars, up by 28.88 percent compared with the same period last year. In March alone, the value of exports reached 30 million U.S. dollars.

In the said period, the city's imports totaled 81,349,000 U.S. dollars, up 51.15 percent from a year earlier.

The major import or export items are rice, beans, dried cuttlefish, light industrial goods, spare parts, fertilizer, etc. Coffee, forest products, plastic goods, cotton yarn, monosodium glutamate, etc. have registered a drop in export value.

Also in the first quarter of this year, foreign exchange reserves of the city reached 12,266,000 U.S. dollars and remittances from overseas Vietnamese 9,443,000 U.S. dollars, up by 14.45 and 130.666 percent respectively compared with 1991.

The city imported an amout of gold valued at U.S. 11.75 million dollars.

In the first two months of this year, 12 investment projects were licensed in the city with a total capital of U.S. 91 million dollars. These concern tea processing, banana ornamental plant growing, hotel and house construction, embroideries and lacework and garments.

Australia

Electoral Setback Not To Cause Policy Changes

BK1204093892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 12 Apr 92

[Text] Canberra, April 12 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating ruled out changes to government policy here Sunday after his party lost the seat held by predecessor Bob Hawke, but he indicated a further interest rate cut was possible.

Hawke's former seat of Wills in Victoria, which he held for 10 years until he retired from politics earlier this year after losing the prime ministership to Keating in December, was won at a by-election Saturday by independent candidate Phil Cleary.

The ruling Australian Labor Party (ALP) holds a comfortable majority in the parliament.

Keating told reporters the loss of the seat would have no impact on policy, which had already been revamped under his package of reforms released at the end of February to lift the economy out of recession.

But the prime minister added that there was a "possibility" interest rates could be cut again following the release of inflation figures, due April 29.

"If inflation remains in its current level of subsidence, then there is some prospect that the real interest rate could come back," he said.

Analysts expect another low consumer price index figure for the three months to March 31 after a 28-year low inflation figure of 1.5 percent in the year to December.

Rates were last lowered on January 8, with official rates at 7.5 percent, the 11th cut since early 1990 when rates peaked at 18 percent.

Labor's primary vote in Hawke's old constituency fell by 19 percent in the poll won by Cleary, who said: "The people of Wills are suggesting to both parties that they need to review their economic policies."

Keating said the backlash against Labor was a delayed reaction of voter anger at the recession and not a reflection on the government's new policies, as they had not been in place long enough to take effect.

Unemployment is a particular problem for the electorate.

He claimed that the electorate, by not choosing the candidate put forward by the conservative Liberal Party, had rejected the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition and its proposal for a goods and service tax as the basis of its taxation reform package.

Keating said he was confident the Labor Party would win back the seat at the next general election, due early next year.

Opposition leader John Hewson said the Liberals would not be swerving in their policies despite finishing third behind Labor in the poll.

"We have no doubt that on the swings of yesterday (Saturday) that we would romp into government at the next general election," Hewson told reporters.

Keating said economic recovery was under way and ruled out any additional government spending to boost the economy.

"I think we've seen the recovery induced from the rate reductions starting to come through and, as well as that, the 'one nation' spending," Keating said, referring to a 2.3 billion dollar (1.75 billion U.S.) reform and spending package over four years.

"Only a very small part of that's happened so far," he said, adding: "As that's spent over the course of the year there will be a lot more activity."

Treasurer John Dawkins said Friday in Hong Kong that the government would take into account the recent cut in U.S. rates, as well as progress towards low domestic inflation.

"I think the big key to adjustments in monetary policy will be our success on inflation," he said, adding that any cut in rates would have to wait until after the next inflation data was released at the end of the month.

New Zealand

Government Prepared To Implement Libya Sanctions

BK1304062492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Wellington, April 13 (AFP)—New Zealand Monday introduced regulations to ensure the country will comply with United Nations sanctions against Libya due to come into effect Wednesday, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement.

New Zealand would, as a result, be able to fully meet its international obligations on the issue, he said.

McKinnon said there may still be a "handful" of New Zealanders in Libya, but the Swiss Embassy in Tripoli, which looks after New Zealand interests, had received no approach from nationals, and no family members here had approached the government.

"I still do not intend to issue a travel advisory notice," McKinnon said. "Developments in Libya in the last week or so speak for themselves."

The sanctions, including an embargo on airlinks, are designed to force Libya to hand over two men accused of organising the destruction of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988.

Papua New Guinea

Premier Faces Charges of Misusing Public Funds

BK1304103092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Port Moresby, April 13 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea is facing a new political crisis because of charges against Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu and five of his senior colleagues of misusing public funds.

Namaliu, Finance Minister Paul Pora, and four former ministers have been referred for investigation and prosecution, public prosecutor Kina Bona said here Monday.

Bona said he had written to police commissioner Ila Geno recommending that Namaliu, Pora, and former ministers Peter Garong, Timothy Bonga, Galeng Lang, and Melchior Pep be investigated and charged with misusing public funds.

Namaliu and Pora were implicated in a recent case involving Labor and Employment Minister Toni Ila, who was found guilty by a leadership tribunal on 43 counts of misconduct in office.

Namaliu and Pora have ignored opposition demands that they stand aside pending investigation of the charges, but the pressure is mounting.

Ila had applied for and received 40,000 U.S. dollars from the government for personal expenses. He resigned from Parliament before the tribunal could hand down a penalty.

The tribunal found last month that both Namaliu and Pora had played a part in approving the money for Ila and should therefore be investigated.

The four former ministers are now facing a leadership tribunal for allegedly applying to their own use hundreds of thousands of dollars from the public purse.

They are alleged to have applied for the money when they resigned their portfolios to make way for other MPs to keep Namaliu in power in a pending vote of no-confidence in 1990.

Bona said a leadership tribunal to be headed by a national court judge Gibuma Salika would soon begin hearing charges against the four leaders.

They were suspended last Friday and could resign to avoid going through with the leadership tribunal, but could not avoid criminal proceedings.

Seven other politicians, including Ila, and former deputy prime minister Ted Diro have chosen this course to avoid justice.

But they do not have any immunity in a criminal proceeding.

Namaliu Responds to Accusations

BK1404040492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0305 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Port Moresby, April 14 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, who is facing charges of allegedly misusing public funds, hit back Tuesday at his accuser, public prosecutor Kina Bona.

The prime minister told journalists that Bona's behaviour in discussing with the media his decision to recommend Namaliu and five senior colleagues be investigated and prosecuted was "unbecoming and unethical of the legal profession."

Namaliu said he was surprised a constitutional office holder like the prosecutor would engage in "cheap publicity." [passage omitted]

Namaliu said Tuesday that he would be writing to the law society and to attorney-general and justice minister Bernard Narokobi to complain about Bona's interview with the press.

"If Bona had written to the police commissioner asking police to investigate then it is a matter of confidentiality."

Namaliu said he would always welcome any ombudsman commission or police inquiries into the handling of the public funds.

A leadership tribunal can only recommend fines or dismissals of leaders found guilty on misconduct charges whereas criminal proceedings through the district and national courts can result in jail terms.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.